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Three honored for aiding 5 in sinking boat. PAGE 2

Juan Pan launches bid to become governor. PAGE 3

Prices of consumer goods increase slightly in last quarter of '08

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

After a slight breather in the third quarter of 2008, the cost of basic consumer goods on Saipan rose by 0.3 index points in fourth and final quarter of last year, according to the latest report from the Department of Commerce.

The Saipan Consumer Price Index for the period of October and December 2008 climbed to 120.5 compared to the 120.3 recorded from July to September 2008.

This means that a market basket of

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Inos grilled; House fails to override budget veto

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

Members of the House of Representatives grilled Finance Secretary Eloy Inos yesterday, questioning the governor's "eleventh hour" veto of the fiscal year 2009 budget and use of cover-over funds to eliminate the fiscal year 2008 deficit.

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NMC REGISTRATION

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students register for Spring 2009 classes at the Northern Marianas College. In addition to registration, the college is also accepting admissions applications until Jan. 17, 2009. For more information, contact the NMC Office of Admissions and Records at 234-5498 Ext. 1537.

December arrivals down nearly 5 percent

But posts 2.04-percent increase for all of 2008

Tourist arrivals to the Northern Mariana Islands fell nearly 5 percent last month compared to December 2007, as arrivals from Korea, China and several other destinations posted losses. However, gains early in the year allowed the NMI to post a small 2.04 percent increase in arrivals for calendar year 2008.

According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, total visitor arrivals to the CNMI reached 34,181 last month versus 35,849

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Small biz woes have big impact on the economy

By EMILY FREDRIX and ASHLEY M. HEHER
AP RETAIL WRITERS

It may be the final days of business for the Scandia Bake Shop. After almost 60 years of serving treats like julekake and Oslo rye bread, the Minneapolis store is worried it may have to shut its doors

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AP

Scandia Bake Shop owner Gary Arvidson stands behind the counter as he talks to customers Friday, Jan. 9, 2009, in Minneapolis.

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Should there be more than just one legal cockfighting arena on Saipan?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

105 DAYS without a government budget for FY 2009

INSIDE

More Wilderness

The US Senate advances legislation that would set aside more than 2 million acres in 9 states as wilderness.

NATION...Page 14

Golden Globes

"Slumdog Millionaire" lived up to its underdog theme at the Golden Globes, sweeping all four of its categories.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

Local

Three honored for aiding 5 in sinking boat

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety has honored three civilians who assisted Boating Safety officers in rescuing five persons, including two minors, from a sinking boat near Mañagaha Island last Dec. 26.

DPS Commissioner Santiago Tudela and Boating Safety Section officers on Friday handed certificates of appreciation to Brian Reyes, Patrick Reyes, and Edwin Villagomez for "their outstanding performance" in assisting the officers in rescuing the victims.

DPS spokesperson Lei Ogumoro said yesterday that on Dec. 26 at 6:04pm, DPS received a call of a sinking boat located between Saipan and Mañagaha.

BSS officers responded to the distress call aboard rescue boat *Zodiac III*.

The officers met with the other boat being operated by Brian Reyes and his two crew members: Patrick Reyes and Edwin Villagomez.

BSS officers asked for the men's help in ferrying the victims from the sinking boat into *Zodiac III* as the sinking boat was on the reef line, which was too shallow and would pose a danger to the rescue vessel if it enters the area.

The three civilians safely transported the five victims to *Zodiac III*.

After securing all the victims, Reyes and his crew members helped pull the sinking boat out of the reef line. BSS officers towed back the vessel to the Smiling Cove Marina.

The two female children, ages 7 and 12, complained of being cold. Medics, who were waiting at the Marina, attended to the children.

According to the victims' boat operator, Jason B. Aldan, 29, he and two adults and the two children went out to do some snorkeling at Mañagaha.

At 5:30pm, Aldan's group left Mañagaha and headed back to Saipan. While heading south between two reefs, a big wave hit the boat from behind, causing water to enter the vessel from the front portion.

Aldan tried to bail out the water, but water kept coming in from the side. Police were then called for assistance.

Department of Public Safety Commissioner Santiago Tudela, standing at extreme left, and Boating Safety Section officers present civilians Brian Reyes, Patrick Reyes, and Edwin Villagomez with certificates of appreciation last Friday for their "outstanding performance" in assisting BSS officers in rescuing two children and three adults from a sinking boat last Dec. 26.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

'Baka's temporary appointment violates law'

Rep. Rosemond B. Santos has written Gov. Benigno Fitial stating that Gregory Baka's tenure as acting Attorney General violates the law.

Baka has held the position of acting Attorney General since Sept. 27, 2008, when Matthew Gregory stepped down.

Santos was referring to the law that states appointments of positions that require the approval of the Senate, Senate and House, or members of senatorial districts must be submitted to the presiding officer within 30 days following the date the person was temporarily appointed.

"It has been more than 30 days since Mr. Baka's temporary appointment as Acting Attorney General and such appointment has not been forwarded to the Legislature. As a result, Mr. Baka's appointment is in violation of existing law," Santos wrote.

Charles Reyes, press secretary for the governor's office, said Baka is acting by default because he was the deputy Attorney General before Gregory's resignation. If there had been no deputy to fill the position, then there would be a vacancy and someone would need to be nominated, Reyes said.

He added that he would have to check with the Office of the Attorney General, which has been very scrupulous in following the law with regards to Baka.

"That issue hasn't been raised at all. We'll have to take a look at it," he said. ***(Kristi Eaton)***

3 Ballesteros murder suspects given more time to study case

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A Superior Court judge has given the three suspects in the murder of security guard Efren Ballesteros more time to study the evidence that the prosecution had forwarded to them.

Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja yesterday reset the status conference to Feb. 23 at 1:30pm. Chief prosecutor Kevin Lynch did not object to the suspects' motion.

Bruce Berline, lawyer for Edward Blas, told the court that they need at least a month to evaluate the materials that were provided by the Attorney General's Office a couple of days ago.

As for Eric Rabauliman's motion to allow him to hire a private investigator to study the case, Naraja asked Rabauliman's lawyer, Lillian Tenorio, to specify the areas that she wants the investigator to look into, citing the Judiciary's limited budget.

The judge also granted Rabauliman's request to attend an uncle's funeral today. Naraja said Rabauliman must be accompanied by Corrections officers during the funeral.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune* after the hearing, Lynch said he expects the defendants' lawyers would want more time to review the case.

Lynch said the government has taken no position on the request for a private investigator as the law allows defense lawyers to seek help in looking into the case and properly advising their clients.

Lynch said the government also did not object to Rabauliman attending a funeral, leaving it up to the Department of Corrections to decide whether it has the manpower or time to escort the suspect.

The chief prosecutor said that by the Feb. 23 status conference, everybody should have the chance to look into the facts that were presented during the discovery process.

"They may or may not file motions by that time. Usually later on, if the case starts heading toward trial, the defense might file motions," Lynch said.

Rabauliman, Blas, and Randy Igisomar, are being charged with murder in the first degree during the perpetration of burglary and or robbery. They all pleaded not guilty.

The 18-year-old Rabauliman is also facing two counts of burglary, one count of conspiracy to commit assault with a dangerous weapon and burglary, two counts of theft, and one count of assault with a dangerous weapon. He pleaded not guilty.

Lynch earlier disclosed that Blas and Igisomar would be charged with burglary, theft, and assault with a dangerous weapon in juvenile court because are both only 16 years old.

Chief Public Defender Adam Hardwicke is representing Igisomar in the murder case.

The charging information states that that on or about Nov. 17 or 18, 2008, Rabauliman, Blas, and Igisomar killed Ballesteros during the perpetration or attempted perpetration of burglary or robbery.

The chief prosecutor said Rabauliman conspired with one or more individuals to commit the crime.

Lynch said that Rabauliman also burglarized a classroom and the JROTC room at Marianas High School where he stole laptop computers, cash, and a JVC camcorder.

The Superior Court has imposed no bail for the three defendants, who are all students at MHS,

Ballesteros, 45, was found dead at the MHS campus in Susupe in the morning of Nov. 18, 2008. He sustained massive injuries to the face and head caused by blunt objects. He also suffered a possible fractured skull, police said.

Ballesteros' wallet containing $300 cash and a wristwatch were reportedly stolen. He had two underaged children, including a five-month-old baby, on Saipan.

Juan Pan launches bid to become governor

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Businessman and former lawmaker Juan "Pan" T. Guerrero announced his candidacy for the 2009 gubernatorial elections yesterday morning amid a throng of supporters, well-wishers, and family in the parking lot of Herman's Bakery along Airport Road in Dandan.

Guerrero, who served in the House of Representatives from 1985 to 1986 and the Senate from 1987 to 1990, said he is running for the Commonwealth's highest position because of the challenges it is facing right now.

"The Commonwealth is facing the most challenging period in its history right now. Our economy has been in a serious depression for the past few years, our relationship with the federal government is virtually nonexistent, our people are leaving in large numbers, and crime is ravaging our community. I cannot stand by and watch the continued economic and cultural deterioration of the Commonwealth. I believe I have workable solutions for the Commonwealth that can help our community change direction and begin to recover," he said.

Guerrero said he will run as an independent candidate and that his choice for running mate will be made by his campaign committee, led by chairman and former congressman and Department of Public Safety commissioner Clyde C. Norita.

"I will run for governor as an independent candidate, free from political party influence obligations and to highlight my commitment to the entire Commonwealth community. I have received encouragement and support from a large number of voters who traditionally identify themselves as Republicans, Democrats, and Covenant Party supporters. I am fortunate today to be surrounded by just some of the many, many family and friends who have urged me to act and who have pledged their support."

Guerrero, who left the political arena to concentrate on the family business in the early '90s, said he is asking voters to consider a question raised by Ronald Reagan when he first ran for the U.S. presidency in 1980.

"'Are you better off than you were four years ago?' I know I'm not! I am deeply committed to the welfare of the Commonwealth, which is where I was born and where I have lived all of my adult life. I have experience building and operating successful private companies, I have experience serving the people of the Commonwealth as a former congressman and senator, I have extensive experience serving in leadership roles for volunteer organizations, I have the willingness to make tough decisions, and I have the ability to adapt to changing circumstances."

He said voters should consider these factors during the 2009 elections. If he wins, he said his administration will focus on issues like the economy, education, environment, federal relations, government efficiency, health care, the Retirement Fund, a safer community, tourism, utilities, and infrastructure.

"In the day ahead, I will continually evaluate and refine the identification of issues and proposed solutions. I have always believed that people should be willing to adapt to changing circumstances and remain open to learning from every experience. I rarely consider any outcome, no matter how negative, a pure failure—there's always an opportunity to learn. The only time you fail is when you don't at least attempt to solve your problems," he said.

MARK RABAGO
Businessman and former lawmaker Juan "Pan" T. Guerrero speaks to announce his candidacy for the 2009 gubernatorial elections yesterday morning at the parking lot of Herman's Bakery along Airport Road in Dandan.

In announcing his candidacy, the 2006 Saipan Chamber of Commerce Businessperson of the Year discussed some of the actions his campaign will take in the coming weeks to help voters learn more about his vision for the Commonwealth, including the launch of a website (www.juanpan.com), house-to-house visits, and community events.

Guerrero's campaign headquarters is located on the first floor of the JTGA Building in Garapan, at the corner of Beach Road and Orchid Street, adjacent to the Garapan Elementary School.

Aside from his membership in the Chamber, which included two terms as president, Guerrero also helped reorganize and served on the board of directors of the American Red Cross. He is currently on the board of the Northern Marianas Retirement Fund board of trustees, of which he is chairman.

Guerrero's decision to run follows last month's declarations by former Lt. Gov. Diego Benavente, former senator and CUC executive director Ramon "Kumoi" S. Guerrero, and local businessman Joe Ayuyu that they too will contest the islands' highest position.

Incumbent Gov. Benigno R. Fitial already announced in March 2008 that he will seek re-election in 2009.

Yumul says $10M deficit so far in first quarter of FY '09

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

The CNMI government is estimated to be $10 million in deficit after the first quarter of fiscal year 2009, according to numbers obtained by Rep. Ray Yumul.

Yumul, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, said he contacted a "well placed" source in the Executive Branch who informed him the government spent $47 million from October to December, the first three months of the 2009 fiscal year.

At this rate, he said, the government will be spending approximately $188 million for the fiscal year—more than the projected $156.7 million that Gov. Benigno Fitial said the government expects to collect this fiscal year.

Fitial submitted the revised number after vetoing the Legislature-approved budget of $165.4, citing an $8 million drop in projected revenue.

Yumul said the $10 million deficit is why Fitial, following the advice of Finance Secretary Eloy Inos, recently enacted an across-the-board budget cut for government agencies.

"That's why the Secretary had to make the drastic decision to reduce 5.5 percent," Yumul said.

He added that there was no reduction to budgets in October, but there was a reduction of 1.7 percent in November, a reduction of approximately 2.1 percent in December and a 5.5 percent reduction starting in January.

"There will be another drastic reduction if we stay the course," he said, adding that the reduction would be seen in layoffs and reduction of government hours.

When questioned by the House yesterday, Inos said he expects to see the official numbers for the first quarter later on in the day and would submit it to the Legislature today.

Press secretary Charles Reyes said the governor is calling on the Legislature to pass three or four measures to alleviate the deficit. Those measures include enacting austerity holidays, not working on Fridays, and reducing Retirement Fund contributions from 18 to 11 percent. Also, the governor is seeking reprogramming authority and expenditure authority.

"So we agree that we are on deficit spending," Reyes said, adding that the administration needs the Legislature's help to enact the measures.

Even if a new budget is not passed, Reyes said, the budget cuts are still necessary.

SMALL

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within the week, felled by shrinking sales, rising flour prices and a downright dismal holiday season.

"They come out in droves and you make most of your money between Thanksgiving and Christmas," said 60-year-old owner Gary Arvidson, who took over the business in 1993. "And then this year I was really counting on that and the economy went into the dumper."

Times are tough for small business owners, those whom politicians tout as the backbone of America. As the recession marches on, it's those businesses—which employ about half of the country's private-sector workers—that are particularly vulnerable to the squeeze.

To cope, small business owners—from neighborhood plumbers to graphic design firms—are paying employee salaries before their own, trying to renegotiate leases and pleading for customers on neighborhood blogs. But despite their best efforts, the customers aren't there.

"It's all feeding on itself," said Raymond Keating, chief economist at the Small Business Survival Committee, an advocacy group based in Oakton, Va. "People are scared. They're not quite sure what to do."

Not every small business is facing impending doom. But the economic quicksand brought on by the longest recession in a quarter century is getting worse as the nation's unemployment rate reaches a 16-year-high and banks become more careful about lending money. That's consuming even local favorites like Heinemann's restaurant chain in Milwaukee, Olsson's Books & Records in Washington, D.C., and The Music Mill, a popular performance space in Indianapolis.

Small businesses—defined by the government as having 500 or fewer workers—are a key portion of the country's commerce food chain. They account for more than 99 percent of all employer firms, according to federal statistics, pay nearly 45 percent of the country's private payroll and produce almost a third of the nation's export value.

That means when they hurt, everyone feels the pain. Closures affect communities, where friends are co-workers and customers, and the cost-cutting creates a hard-to-stop cycle. Charitable donations wilt. Storefronts sit empty. Cities and towns get less tax revenue, and have to cut their budgets. And people wind up spending even less as those who are unemployed—or those who worry they will be—trim their own budgets at the expense of other businesses, large and small.

While falling sales and the credit crunch have made headlines, the small business owners left standing are facing problems as varied as the businesses they run. Manufacturing is slowing. Layoffs are looming. Financing is hard, if not impossible, to come by. Vendors are being skittish about extending credit for inventory. Rents are rising. And profits are falling—or vanishing altogether as sales slip.

Ajay Ekesa, 29, worries that his Kahawa Coffee House in Chicago may not last through the spring. He's spreading flyers around the neighborhood, opening his shop's space for community meetings and writing letters to a popular local Web site, asking them to publicize his plight.

"Right now I'm trying to do everything I can do," he said, adding that he's using his own money to pay the coffee shop's bills and the salaries of his two employees. "With every hour that I'm staying open, I'm not making money. I'm losing money, which doesn't make much sense."

That's why Bonnie Mihalic closed her eponymous costume and bric-a-brac store on New Year's Eve, after sales fell by 50 percent during the all-important Halloween season. When she shut down the Ventura, Calif. shop, she laid off her seven employees and said goodbye to loyal customers she had come to know during 30 years in business.

"They're like my children. Or my grandchildren," the 76-year-old said. "I'm heartbroken."

Now she's emptying her 10,000-square foot store and moving things to a warehouse. If she doesn't get rid of her stock, including hundreds of wigs, tiki torches, and leftover holiday decorations by the end of the month, she'll owe another $15,000 in rent.

INOS

From Page 1

Earlier in the day, the House failed to achieve a two-thirds majority to override Gov. Benigno Fitial's Dec. 24 veto of the $165.4 million budget for FY 2009. Fitial had cited a revised $8 million drop in estimated revenue to explain the veto action. He attributed the decline to the loss of Northwest Airlines' Saipan-Osaka flights in March and the closure of the remaining garment factories on Saipan.

House members had also voted earlier in the day to support the House Ways and Means Committee's efforts to subpoena Inos, the Bank of Guam, and the Office of Management and Budget.

Subpoenaing Inos became unnecessary because, during the afternoon portion of the session, he showed up to respond to the lawmakers' questions.

Inos grilled

Members questioned why they were not told about Northwest's ceasing the route when they were still in talks with Inos about the budget. Rep. Heinz Hofschneider asked if it had been an oversight, which Inos denied.

"Northwest…it was never documented," he said of the airline's decision to stop the route. "It was through an official telephone call to the governor," he said, adding that he was present when the call took place.

Hofschneider said he felt it was sleight-handed and used as a reason to veto the budget.

"I'm sorry it appeared that way," Inos said. "We didn't know beforehand…it kind of caught us by surprise."

Lawmakers also questioned the addition of $18 million in cover-over funds to the FY 2008 budget.

Inos said the CNMI has received close to $50 million in cover-over funds from the United States. The U.S. Treasury is up to date in the funding but, he added, the administration is considering certain issues they would "like to bring to the cover-over table, but they're still under investigation."

The government received the cover-over funds around Nov. 26, allowing the government to accrue the funds for fiscal year 2008 because it was within 60 days of the end of the fiscal year. Nov. 26 was also the day Inos wrote to the Legislature, saying his office was showing $13.6 million in excess expenditures and obligations over the $160.1 million budget. The department was also reporting $4.5 million in revenue shortfall. The cover-over funds ultimately gave the government a surplus of $110,000 for 2008.

Hofschneider asked Inos about additional hires within the government.

"Has payroll increased?" Hofschneider asked.

"No, I don't think so," Inos said. "I have no reason to believe it increased."

Hofschneider said he trusts Inos but would appreciate a certified letter stating that hiring has not increased and payroll remains static.

'Not a coincidence'

Inos said it is not a coincidence that general fund resources dropped from the initial $156 million the Legislature used to prepare its budget to the $148 million the governor cited in his veto message. The difference is caused by $8 million in Compact Impact funds. Compact Impact funds are provided to certain U.S. jurisdictions to help offset the costs associated with migration from the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia and Palau under the Compacts of Free Association.

Because they are federal grants, Inos said, they are not a part of the general fund, and therefore not at the Legislature's discretion.

"It was a grant like any other federal grant," Inos said. "The process of that money was made by way of an application through a series of data collection," he said, adding that the government must specify where those funds will be spent.

Failed override

During the morning portion of the session—before Inos appeared and was questioned —the House of Representatives failed to get a two-thirds majority to override Fitial's veto.

After two hours of discussion, the members voted 10-8 to override the veto. Fourteen votes were needed to pass the override. Two members were absent. Many of the members who voted against the veto said they wanted to question Inos before overriding.

Tina Sablan, who voted for the override, said she was disappointed with the outcome.

"I think our action today sets a very bad precedent for future budgets, future legislatures, and future governors," she said. "For these last-minute budget changes, essentially the governor thwarted the budget process, and we permitted it by failing to override the veto."

DECEMBER

From Page 1

December 2007. Cumulative arrivals in calendar year 2008 totaled 396,274 visitors, or 7,929 (2.04 percent) visitors ahead of calendar year 2007.

Arrivals from Korea dropped significantly for the second month in a row to 8,098, which is 30 percent fewer than last December. The weakened Korean economy and depreciated won continue to result in fewer Korean outbound tourists overall, which is also affecting arrivals to the CNMI. This loss comes despite an overall increase in flights by Asiana Airlines from 15 flights a week in December 2007 to 18 flights a week in December 2008.

Due to the decreased travel demand with the economic downturn, Asiana Airlines reduced its air capacity from Seoul to Saipan last month under the flexible aircrafts operating system. From Dec. 15-23, 2008, Asiana Airlines replaced the Boeing 767 (250 seats) with the narrow body Airbus 321(177 seats) aircraft. The aircraft replacement will also be in effect for morning flights from Seoul from Jan. 1-25, 2009. MVA's off-shore office reports that Asiana Airlines anticipates to operate this plan flexibly depending on demand and load factors.

Due to the decreased demand, Asiana Airlines also plans to cut the number of weekly flights from the current four to two on the Pusan-Saipan route starting March 1. Asiana also plans to decrease the number of weekly flights from the current 14 to 11 on the Incheon-Saipan route from late February or early March

"Arrivals from Korea continue to be negatively influenced by national factors beyond our control," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "However, Korea is the CNMI's second largest source market and accounted for 28 percent of our total arrivals in 2008. They continue to be an important market for us."

On a positive note, December 2008 was another strong month for the Japan as the market posted another month of growth, and specifically, a 19-percent increase in arrivals compared to December 2007. Bolstered by a stronger Japanese yen and additional flights, Japan generated 20,517 visitors last month, 3,321 more visitors than in December 2007. The additional flights included three additional weekly flights by Asian Airlines from Osaka beginning Dec. 18, four charter flights to Saipan, and two charter flights to Rota. The NMI also received one cruise ship from Japan—MS *Asuka II*—with 813 passengers.

"Japan is another market with fewer outbound tourists where our off-shore offices have used our limited funding effectively to maintain NMI market share," said Tenorio. "There are fewer Japanese traveling, but the NMI is holding its own in terms of percentage."

The first of three charter flights by Vladivostok Airlines arrived in December, raising the monthly total to 895 visitors from Russia, or 39 percent more than last December. Although small in number, Russian tourists have proven lucrative for the NMI in terms of length of stay and on-island expenditures.

China recorded only 2,004 arrivals, 42 percent lower than last year, attributed to fewer available flights from major market destinations. The CNMI has only one direct flight from Shanghai, China as compared to two direct flights from Guanghzhou and Beijing in December 2007. Arrivals from Guam, the mainland U.S. and Philippines were also down.

With the economies of Japan and Korea on the downswing and the uncertainty of continued visa waivers for China and Russia, tourism in Saipan, Tinian, and Rota faces significant unpredictability in 2009. ***(MVA)***

PRICES

From Page 1

goods and services that cost $100 during the 2003 base period went up to $120.50 in the final three months of last year, which translates to a $20.50 increase.

The quarter preceding that saw the Saipan CPI dip from 120.9 to 120.2—a 0.7 drop.

Year-by-year comparison, meanwhile, shows that prices of basic commodities rose by 6.4 index points as the Saipan CPI stood at 114.1 points in the fourth quarter of 2007.

The rise in the consumer price index in the fourth quarter of 2008 was led by an 8.0 index point rise in transportation cost from 96.4 in the third quarter to 104.4 in the fourth quarter. This is blamed on premium charges on auto insurance and increased rates for car repairs.

The cost of medical care also shot up by 3.6 index points to 108.1 from 104.5 three months before. Commerce said that besides previous increases in medical rates, premium changes in life insurance plans also led to the rise.

Food expenses also showed a 2.7 index point increase in the final three months of 2008—from 116.1 to 118.8. Commerce said the increase is attributed to a similar rise in shipping fees by shippers, cost of good suppliers, utility rates, and fuel for delivery.

It added that the frozen food section led the increase in cost but canned goods and other pre-packed foods also contributed in its prices going up.

Alcoholic beverages also witnessed an increase as a moderate rise in the cost of spirits upped its index points from 103.5 to 104.3—a 0.8 rise.

The cost of apparel, meanwhile, went up 0.6 percent—100.8 to 101.4—as most of the clothes that were on sale during the holidays were not within the market basket.

Another category that helped rev up the CPI was the cost of education and communication, as moderate increases in textbooks and tuitions led to a 0.5 index point rise from 100.8 to 101.3 in the fourth quarter of 2008.

On the bright side, the cost of housing and utilities saw a 6.6 index point drop in October-December 2008 as lowered fuel service charge rate by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. coupled by a depreciation in rental rates—as owners aggressively tried to keep their old tenants and entice new ones with discounted rental rates—contributed to the group settling to 152.7 index points from the previous quarter's 159.3.

Of the nine groups the CPI is based, recreation and other goods and services remained constant at 98.1 and 107.7, respectively.

The Saipan CPI is designed to measure changes in prices of commodities and services normally purchased by the community. Like the U.S. CPI, it is based on the concept of representative "market basket," a sample of goods and services that the consumer purchases. The CPI was first developed during the early part of 1977 and was rebased in 2003.

The selection of weight distribution was based on household expenditure patterns derived from a household incomes and expenditure survey conducted by the Central Division in conjunction with the U.S. Census Bureau. A total of 762 teams in the Saipan CPI are divided into nine major groups and sub-groups and indices are computed at different levels of aggregations.

Commerce does not have a CPI for Tinian and Rota.

Immigration arrests two alleged overstayers

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Division of Immigration's crackdown on suspected illegal aliens have resulted in the arrest of two persons, including one who has allegedly been overstaying for almost a decade now.

Guo Can Yang, male, 45, and Xiuying Guo, 45, female, both Chinese nationals were taken to the Superior Court for a bail hearing last Friday afternoon.

According to Immigration, Yang has overstayed in the CNMI for over nine years and six months, while Guo has overstayed for over two years.

The court imposed a $500 cash bail plus $4,500 unsecured bond for the temporary release of Yang; it imposed a $100 cash bail and $900 unsecured bond on Guo.

The two were ordered to appear in court on Jan. 22 at 2pm to explain why they shouldn't be deported from the CNMI.

Immigration investigator John Peter stated in his report that police officer Chris Guerrero had informed Immigration last Wednesday that Yang was being held for questioning in connection with the theft of copper wire.

Peter said he responded and arrested Yang after the latter admitted that he has no labor case and has overstayed in the CNMI. Peter said that Yang's nonresident worker's entry permit expired on June 18, 1999.

Immigration records indicate that Yang used to be a farmer.

As for Guo, Peter said they were conducting a "High-5 Operation" (crackdown against illegal aliens) Thursday night in western Garapan when they observed the respondent with another female Chinese national near the Duty Free area, trying to pick up a Japanese male tourist.

Peter said he arrested Guo after she failed to provide any valid labor or immigration document and identification.

The investigator said Immigration records show that Guo has overstayed in the CNMI for over two years now.

Records indicate that Guo used to work as a waitress.

Afetnas factory burglarized, clothing in 180 boxes taken

A factory in Afetnas was burglarized and most garments from 180 boxes were stolen last Saturday, according to the Department of Public Safety yesterday.

DPS spokesperson Lei Ogumoro said that on Saturday morning they received a report of a burglary and theft incident at the Yong Jia Corp. in Afetnas.

Ogumoro said that two employees of Yong Jia Corp. discovered that most of the clothes that was in storage boxes were stolen from the factory.

Police learned the suspect(s) entered through a window.

The factory was last secured on Tuesday, Jan. 6, at 2pm.

Ogumoro said police learned that 180 boxes filled with pants and shirts were in the factory, but most of the garments from the boxes were stolen.

"The case is under further investigation," Ogumoro said.

The NMI Crime Stoppers Program is offering up to $1,000 cash reward to anyone who can provide information leading to an arrest in this case. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Probable cause found to charge detainee who allegedly escaped

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court yesterday found probable cause to warrant the filing of charges against an 18-year-old detainee who, along with a murder suspect, reportedly escaped from the Kagman Juvenile Detention Facility last New Year's Day.

During preliminary hearing, associate judge David A. Wiseman found probable cause that the offense of escape was committed.

Wiseman also determined that there is probable cause that Maximo San Nicolas Muna may have committed the offense.

The judge issued the ruling after listening to the testimony of Detective George David and the arguments of assistant attorney general Rebecca Warfield and assistant public defender Mathew Holley.

Wiseman remanded Muna back to the custody of the Department of Corrections.

David stated in his report that on Jan. 1 at 12:23am, the Kagman Juvenile Detention Facility reported a prison escape within their facility.

David said responding police officers learned that Muna and a juvenile recently arrested for the murder of a security guard had escaped from their facility through a cut fence line from within the facility's yard.

The Department of Public Safety later identified the juvenile detainee as 16-year-old murder suspect Edward Blas.

David said DPS issued an all-points bulletin to find Muna and Blas.

The detective said an officer from the Juvenile Detention had stated that on Dec. 31 at 11:50pm, while in the control room monitoring the surveillance cameras, she noticed two human figures within the facility yard.

After reviewing the camera carefully, the officer immediately called for a lock down and told the unit block officer to conduct a head count.

The Juvenile Detention officers discovered that a portion of the south wing fence line had been cut open.

The officers then learned that Muna and the other detainee were missing from their cells.

At 6am that same day, Muna and the other detainee were found back outside but in the premises of the Juvenile Detention Facility.

DPS Commissioner Santiago Tudela earlier told *Saipan Tribune* that Muna and Blas apparently returned to the detention facility because they were hungry and thirsty.

MAI project manager donates to CHC

Sergio Loya, project manager of consulting firm Management Analysis Inc., recently donated $750 to the volunteer group that is working on a project at the Commonwealth Health Center.

Loya said the money came from his own pocket and has no connection with MAI.

Loya's company is helping the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategic Commission in drafting a five-year economic recovery plan for the CNMI.

His donation was turned over on Dec. 10 to Kaye Christian, a volunteer advocating for people with disabilities.

Christian is developing an outdoor center project at the CHC, where patients can have time to rest and stretch.

Christian is a consumer advocate, member of the Mental Health Planning Council at CHC, and chairperson of the Protection and Advocacy of Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI) Advisory Council at NMPASI.

Her advocacy work includes helping individuals with mental illness and work toward reducing the stigma of mental illness in the CNMI. ***(N. Rodriguez Jr.)***

Announcement for the Opening of the
Psychology Practice of Dr. Ron Meister
(Licensed Psychologist 670 322-0349)

At the NMPASI conference room
Located just north of the Gualo Rai intersection
On Friday January 16th from 3:30 to 6:00 p.m.

Thai refreshments will be served.
All are welcome!! No RSVP required

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Taxi group hopes all is well for tourism in 2009

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Miserable over the continuing decline in the number of visitors to the CNMI, the Saipan City Taxi Association hopes for a revitalization of the tourism industry because this is the only way their business can recover and survive.

The 15-member group, who are mostly from Bangladesh, celebrated their seventh anniversary Friday night at the Garapan Central Park with families and friends.

Formed in 2002, the group was officially registered a year later.

The group's president, Rabby Syed, said taxi operators on Saipan are highly dependent on tourists to sustain their livelihood.

Syed was chosen again as the group's head for 2009 along with vice President Asab Uzzaman, secretary Ranjit K. Saha, joint secretary Manjurul Alam, treasurer Shamsur Rahman, joint treasurer Tapan K. Banik, board chairperson Amir Hossain.

The group's members include Ziaur Rahaman, Md. Jahangir Alam, Amrita Lal Sarker, Md. Mohedul Islam, Chanchal K. Mondal, Nazmul Haque, Shakhawat Hossain, Joy Mollick and Apel Mahmud.

Syed, who is also the vice president of the United Workers Movement, said there is a lot of concern about the upcoming takeover of the CNMI immigration and labor systems by the federal government.

Just like other sectors of the community, Syed said they are still figuring out how they will face these issues.

He said they could not survive with the small number of guest workers and local residents who occasionally avail of their services.

The group is hoping for the inclusion of the Chinese and Russian tourists in the visa waiver program.

He said this would be a big help because this would mean that the Russian and Chinese tourists will continue to come and even more of them will have the opportunity to travel.

"We're celebrating our seven years of service to the community. We want to show that we care about the community that we are a part of," said Syed, whose daughter Poleen also celebrated her 12th birthday.

NMC releases 'guidelines to excellence'

The Northern Marianas College recently released an institutional guide that aims to provide the framework with which the college and its stakeholders can come together to strengthen the institution.

The document is called "Institutional Excellence Guide: An Organizational Guide to Shared Governance, Planning, Assessment and Budgeting."

"It is our shared belief that in order to foster a healthy environment where all views are considered, openly debated and given opportunity for adoption, a culture of empowerment must permeate the campus community," according to a joint message by Board of Regents chair Charles V. Cepeda and NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez.

Such empowerment, they said, will help NMC achieve its goals of shared governance, which means everybody—from students, staff, and faculty to community members—would be stakeholders in the college's future.

This shared governance, they said, is the vehicle that would carry out NMC's vision and mission to provide quality education on the islands.

"It allows the college to draw on collective intelligence—in a spirit of collaboration, open and honest communication and mutual trust—so that better decisions are made," the joint message.

The 32-page document serves as a guideline to encourage the participation of all the members of the NMC community, including administration, faculty, support staff and students, in the governance process.

Such participation includes serving on a committee, working group or council and a role in the formulation of the mission and goals of NMC and development of policies.

The document discussed the guiding principles of the college, the description and roles of shared governance bodies (BOR, president, College Council, standing committees, Associated Students of NMC, Faculty Senate, and Staff Senate).

It also presented a model for the shared decision-making process, in which the College Council, the PROAC and the Budget and Finance Committee communicate with each other on agendas and actions, subject to review.

The document also provides a framework for institutional planning, assessment and budgeting procedures. *(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)*

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

DCCA CHILD CARE PROGRAM OPENS FOR NEW APPLICANTS (CNMI Wide)

To: All parents and/or Legal Guardians

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs will be accepting new applications for Child Care and Development Fund (Child Care Program) for the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The program is open to accept new applicants from Wednesday, Jan. 14 to Friday, January 16, 2009.

Applications may be picked up at:
DCCA Child Care Program Office
Building No. 1347 Capital Hill
Office nos. 664-2575 and 664-2573

Child Care Program Office Hours:

Mondays to Thurdays	7:30a.m. to 4:30p.m.
Friday,	7:30a.m. to 1:00p.m.
Friday,	1:00p.m. to 4:30p.m. CLOSED

Applications are limited and are released on a FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE basis. When the applications are out, the program will immediately close its issuance of applications. For this opening, only 50 applications will be released.

Requirements:
Applicant of Household

1. Check stubs for the most recent two pay periods for each parent or guardian
2. A copy of Identification Card for each parent or guardian (Passport, CNMI driver's license, Mayor's ID Card or entry permit)
3. A copy of your most recent 1040 Tax (each parent or guardian)
4. Residency: The applicant or guardian must be living in the CNMI Provide one of the following documents
   a. House Rental/ Mortgage
   b. Utility Receipt
   c. Telephone Receipt
   d. Entry Permit
5. Employment verification
6. Child support statement/stub
7. Training/Education Verification and class schedules
8. If single parent/guardian in a household provide notarized affidavit

Child/Children Household member:

1. A copy of Birth Certificate for each child (Child must be a US citizen or a qualified alien, as defined in Personal Responsibility Work Opportunity Act (PRWORA)
2. A copy of US Passport
3. A copy of Social Security Card

Incomplete applications will not be accepted

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES
RFQ09-GOV-035

Central Garapan Waterline Replacement

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting statements of qualification (SOQ) from licensed architectural and engineering firms (A&E) for the Design of the Central Garapan Waterline Replacement Project, Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The full Request for Qualifications (RFQ) documents may be obtained by contacting Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager, by telephone at (670) 664-2274 or by email at psas@saipan.com. All questions concerning this proposal shall be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 pm, January 27, 2009 to Mr. Sasamoto by facsimile at (670) 664-2279.

The design and construction of the Central Garapan Waterline Replacement Project is made possible by a grant from the Economic Development Administration (EDA), U.S. Department of Commerce. All element of the construction process shall meet standards of the EDA. The EDA grant is matched by a grant from the Office of the Insular Affairs (OIA), U.S. Department of the Interior and requires a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) clearance.

One original and four (4) copies shall be submitted to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than **2:00 PM, (CNMI local time), on February 13, 2009**.

The SOQ shall be marked **"Central Garapan Waterline Replacement Project, RFQ09-GOV-035"**. For firms within the CNMI, one (1) original and four (4) copies of SOQ must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **2:00 p.m. (CNMI local time), on February13, 2009**. Firms located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a **Notice of Intent to Propose**. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **2:00 p.m. (CNMI local time), on February 13, 2009**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or email procurement@pticom.com. For firms located outside the CNMI, one original and four (4) copies of SOQ must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **February 13, 2009** AND must be received no later than **February 25, 2009**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The CNMI reserves the right to reject any and all SOQ and to waive any imperfections in any SOQ if to do so shall be in the best interests of the CNMI. All SOQ shall become the exclusive property of the CNMI government.

Timothy P. Villagomez
Lt. Governor

Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

Candidates' pamphlets now available for '09 aspirants

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission has started issuing the candidates' pamphlets for the November 2009 elections.

The commission said that prospective candidates may now pick up the pamphlets at its office on Capital Hill.

In her message to interested candidates, acting executive director Julita A. Villagomez said their "willingness to serve a position of public trust strengthens the foundations of a democratic system and provides voters with more choices at the polls."

The pamphlet, she said, contains information that may be useful to the candidates.

The 24-page document presents important dates for the elections, such as the last day to establish lawful residency requirement and the first day of submission of nominating petitions and candidacy documents, both on July 10.

The last day for submission of nominating petitions and candidacy documents will be on Aug. 10, while the request for absentee ballots will start on Sept. 8.

The last day for voter registration for the Nov. 7, 2009, general election is on Sept. 18, while the last day for the commission's action on nominating petitions and candidacy documents is Sept. 23.

For the application to vote in another municipality, the deadline is Oct. 8 while the designation of polling places is Oct. 23.

Other important dates to remember are the deadline for application for absentee voting (Oct. 28), absentee voting for emergency absence (Oct. 29), posting/distribution of specimen ballots (Oct. 31), and last day for absentee voting for emergency absence (Nov. 6).

The elective offices for nomination include the governor, lt. governor, mayors (Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Northern Islands), senators, representatives, municipal councilors and Board of Education.

The available seats for the Senate are two for Rota, two for Tinian and Aguiguan and two for Saipan and the Northern Islands.

The available seats for the House of Representatives are six for District 1, two for District 2, six for District 3, two for District 4, two for District 5, and one each for districts 6 and 7.

The pamphlet also contains the qualification requirements for interested candidates, and the process for filing, including the required signatures and filing fees.

The document also identifies the different recognized political parties: the Covenant, Democratic and the Republican.

However, candidates not affiliated with a recognized political party may still run as an independent.

A voter may also organize to form a political party, which may have a place on the ballot and have the names of their candidates identified with the party's name.

The pamphlet also discussed the issue of campaign financial disclosure.

It also provides forms for organization reports, candidates' committees, candidacy certification, waiver, certification of nomination by recognized political party, and nominating petition for candidates for public office.

High-surf seen until tomorrow

The CNMI Emergency Management Office warned beachgoers, swimmers, and divers yesterday of high surf that could affect exposed reefs and beaches, producing dangerous rip currents.

A large northwest swell generated by a cold front that moved off Japan was expected to enter Marianas waters last night. EMO says it expects the high surf to remain until 6am tomorrow, Wednesday.

"Expect hazardous surf of 9 to 11 feet tonight and Tuesday... decreasing to 8 to 10 feet Tuesday night," EMO said in the statement.

EMO is strongly advising the public—especially beachgoers, fishermen, tourists, swimmers, divers and surfers—to avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches, especially those along north and west facing reefs as rip currents are life threatening. ***(EMO)***

PNG Judiciary unable to meet payroll

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (The National/PIR)—The National Judicial Staff Services (NJSS) is in the red and unable to pay salaries for its staff.

Insiders claimed that the NJSS is in the red by about K1.5 million, [US$588,000] resulting in staff not being paid since last month.

This had led to disgruntled workers signing a petition demanding that the NJSS pay their outstanding salaries by next government fortnight or they would walk off their jobs.

Such a protest would throw court schedules for this year into chaos, although the new legal year has not officially opened.

The problem of outstanding salaries had prompted the National and Supreme Court registries to be closed all day yesterday and clients were served though the door.

CARWASH FUNDRAISER CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of Marianas High School's 2009 Japanese Snowboard Trip/Cultural Exchange Program pose with D&Q manager Max Kretzers. The students washed the company's delivery trucks as a fundraiser for their trip to Japan. From left to right: Joe, Brittany Sablan, JollyAnn Cruz, Ellis Miller, Christopher Chung, and Kretzers. At foreground are Alicia Yen, left, and Steven Igisaiar.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday, January 14, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. in the CPA Conference Room, Second Floor, Captain George F. Fleming Building at the Port of Saipan, Saipan.

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes (Nov. 21 and Dec. 2, 2008)

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION
III. CORRESPONDENCES
IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS
1. Financial Affairs Committee
2. Airport Facilities Committee
3. Seaport Facilities Committee
4. Personnel Affairs Committee

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
VI. OLD BUSINESS
1. Food and Beverage RFP at Rota International Airport
2. Adoption of Seaport and Airport Resolutions re: Bond Indenture/Rate Increases
3. Grant of Public Domain
4. Renewal of POI's Lease agreement (Office space)

VII. NEW BUSINESS
5. Taga Air and Tinian Shipping Accounts
6. Personnel Matter: Contract Renewals
7. Pacific Subsea Account
8. OIGA Report
9. North Seaplane Ramp Approval (GPPC)

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS
IX. PUBLIC COMMENT
X. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/S/ JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Chairman, Board of Directors
January 11, 2009

UNITED STATES
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
COUNCIL on DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
Developmental Disabilities Basic State Grant Program
Bldg. No 1312, Capitol Hill • P.O. Box 502565, Saipan, MP 96950-2565
Tel.: (670) 664-7000 • Fax: (670) 664-7030 • Email: gddc@cnmiddcouncil.org
Website: www.cnmicdd.org

CALL FOR SPECIAL MEETING

Attention General Public:

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities under Chairperson Marissa Guerrero is herby calling for a Special Meeting to take place on January 16, 2009 at 1:00 pm at DD Council. . The meeting is called upon based on the Council on Developmental Disabilities Bylaws (dated January 31, 2003)

AGENDA

I. Welcoming Remarks
II. Roll Call
III. Establishment of Quorum
IV. Introduction of new Council Board Members
V. Date for Council Board Member Training
VI. Executive Session
VII. Adjournment

In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 3 days in advance at 664-7000. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Marissa Guerrero, Chairperson

Reynaldo S. Darag
P.O. Box: 504581
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No. 234-0951

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF ADOPTION FOR: JOHN RONALD B. ARCIAGA, Minor Child, by REYNALDO S. DARAG, Petitioners	FCD AD CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0679 NOTICE OF HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Adoption for the above-named minor child by Reynaldo S. Darag, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court.

A HEARING of said petition for Adoption will held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Guma Hustisia Building, Susupe, Saipan, NMI, on the 26th day of February, 2009 at P.M. as soon as thereafter.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

PACIFIC FINANCIAL CORPORATION, Plaintiff, vs. GREGORIO C. DELA CRUZ and BERNADITA S. DELA CRUZ, Defendants.	Civil Action No. 06-0178 NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on December 5th, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interests of Defendants, GREGORIO C. DELA CRUZ and BERNADITA S. DELA CRUZ in and to the real property and the improvement thereon and described as:

Lot No. 019 H 36 (formerly known as Lot 2, Block 36), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 019 H 00, the original of which was registered on March 1, 1971, as Document No. 710, at the Saipan Land Registry Office.

1. **Date, Time, and Place of Sale:** The sale will be held on Wednesday, January 28, 2009, at the Law Offices of Timothy H. Bellas, Cactus St. & Botones Ave., Garapan at the hour of 10:00 a.m. The sale will be open to the general public.

2. **Inspection of Property:** The property described above is located on the island of Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. It is the obligation of the bidder to inspect the property. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

3. **Warranties and Covenants:** The real property listed for sale in this Notice and any improvements thereon will be sold in its current condition, and at its current location. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability, and/or fitness for any purpose whatsoever, all of which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant, express or implied, with respect to the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any other remedy on account any such defects.

4. **Conduct of Sale:**
a. **Reserve.** The auction sale may be held with reserve. The reserve price on any property offered for sale may or may not be disclosed to bidders, in the sole discretion of the undersigned.
b. **Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the laws, customs, and usages of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: (1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted; (2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any bid is accepted, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and (3) to reject, on behalf of the seller, any and/or all bids, for any reason.
c. **Bids.** Bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in this Notice. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property at the time of the auction. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the Law Offices of Timothy H. Bellas. The bidder assumes all of risk of non-delivery, late delivery, or mis-delivery of bids. Any person, including the Plaintiff, may bid in person or through an authorized agent at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.
d. **Disputes.** The undersigned may re-submit any property listed in the Notice if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.

5. **Enforcement of Auction Sale.**
a. **Deposit.** Every successful bidder shall pay to the undersigned a deposit often percent (10%) of the purchase price immediately after the sale in consummated. Payment shall be in cash or by certified check. The balance must be paid to the Plaintiff, in care of Timothy H. Bellas Law Office Trust Account, within **three (3)** days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check. If the balance is not so paid, Plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages, and will again offer the property for public sale.

6. **Memorandum of Sale.** If requested by the undersigned, the successful bidder shall sign a Memorandum of Sale, immediately after the sale of the property is completed at the auction.

7. **Court Approval Required.** Every sale is subject to approval by the Court. The auctioneer makes no warranties or promises with respect to court approval of the sale, including but not limited to the time in which such approval may be granted or denied. No delay in the granting of court approval shall be ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any successful bidder. The successful bidder will be promptly notified if and when court approval is granted or denied.

8. **Risk of Loss.** The risk of loss for any damage to the premises shall pass to the successful bidder upon court approval of the sale.

9. **Changes of Terms and Conditions.** The undersigned and the Plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale, or the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidder based on actual or constructive notice.

Dated this l5th day of December, 2008.

/s/ Timothy H. Bellas
Law Offices of Timothy H. Bella, LLC
Auctioneer
Tel. No. (670) 323-2115

Man'amko invited to MLK Day event

The committee organizing this year's Martin Luther King Jr. Day has invited the islands' elderly population to join them in the commemoration of the event.

The invitation is significant in that the keynote speaker for the event, MarshaRose Joyner, was on Saipan as an 8-year old girl during the closing years of World War II from 1946 to 1949.

Despite the turbulent and chaotic events of that period, Joyner has fond memories of climbing the fence around the Camp Susupe Detention Center, and sneaking in to play with the children living within the compound, according to the African-American Cultural Preservation Committee Inc.

Joyner will share her unique memories and perspectives of that period of time.

"It's rare to find individual service members who were stationed here during that period to tell their story. It's rarer still to find entire families. So to have the perspective of a civilian dependent who is also African-American, and who actually spent time inside the camp, is quite unique," said committee president Joe Hill.

Joyner's father and uncles who were stationed on Saipan from approximately 1946 to 1949 were Marshall Hood, Ernest Hood and Orestes Hood.

"We are extending the call to come forward to anyone within the CNMI who may have met, known of, or interacted with the Hood family, or MarshaRose during that time," Hill said.

The organizers also invited the *man'amko* to participate in the mini-march through Garapan, and to attend the public forum and enjoy Joyner's keynote address on Monday, Jan. 19, 2009. They said there will be opportunities during the week of the event to meet and speak directly and informally with Joyner.

Monday, Jan. 19, 2009, marks the third official commemoration of Martin Luther King Day since Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed the bill enacting Martin Luther King Jr. Day as an official CNMI holiday. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MarshaRose Joyner, the uncle of MarshaRose Joyner and brother to Marshall K. Hood.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marshall Hood, the father of MarshaRose Joyner.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Jan. 10	Student essay ("What Would Martin Say?") finalist selection, American Memorial Park auditorium, 9am; email mlkcontest@welovesaipan.com
Jan. 12	AACPC members discuss MLK event/significance/ movement on Harry Blalock's radio program
Jan. 13	MarshaRose Joyner arrives on Saipan, 8:50pm
Jan. 14	Workshops at schools on Rota
Jan. 15	MarshaRose Joyner goes on Harry Blalock's radio show, 7am; Workshops at schools on Tinian
Jan. 16	Workshops at schools on Saipan
Jan. 19	Martin Luther King Day Public Forum: 1pm - 2 pm; Mini-March: 3pm - 4pm; Program and keynote: 4pm - 6pm
Jan. 20	Workshops at schools on Saipan
Jan. 21	Buffet dinner, Bud's Bar (details to follow)

The death of an industry

Almost twenty-six years after the first one opened in October 1983, the last garment factory on the U.S. territory of Saipan will close its doors Jan. 31, 2009*, ending a controversy-plagued era on this island in the Western Pacific.

Saipan was home to a once-thriving garment industry that, at its height, hosted 36 factories which employed over 15,000 contract workers (mostly women from China, and many from Thailand, the Philippines and other Pacific Islands), generated taxes of $40 million a year for the CNMI government, and $994 million in annual exports to the world.

"It's a fascinating story, but much remains hidden about what things were really like here," says Walt Goodridge, columnist for the *Saipan Tribune* and editor of *Chicken Feathers and Garlic Skin: Diary of a Chinese Factory Girl (www.saipanfactorygirl.com)*, the only known first-hand account of the eight-year experience of a Chinese garment factory worker on Saipan. "Opinions vary, but most workers feel it was a benefit to earn the money they did. When the Uno Moda closes in a few days, it will mark a significant turning point for the island's now primarily tourist-based economy."

WALT GOODRIDGE

Workers at Uno Moda are shown in this Jan 9, 2009 photo.

Saipan's unique relationship with the United States allowed manufacturers to have "Made in the USA" labels on garments sewn there, while benefiting from lower costs and a non-U.S. regulated working wage paid to a mostly female, nonresident workforce. As the trade tariffs lifted, conditions became less profitable, and factories began leaving Saipan for other profit-friendly regions.

Many hope President Bush's recent designation of the world's third largest "no-take" marine monument which includes the nearby Mariana Trench will launch a new image and a new era of industries for the island as this one passes.

Visit www.SaipanFactoryFacts.org for a 25-year industry timeline, income statistics, important milestones, dates of closures and a complimentary excerpt from *Chicken Feathers and Garlic Skin*.

Other media reports of dates of closure differ from what is actually happening here at "ground zero" on Saipan. Uno Moda is the only factory still in operation, with workers reporting to work each day. Workers at Uno Moda have told us that the last day they will actually be sewing and packing is Jan. 15. Contact info@SaipanFactoryFacts.org for up-to-date information and/or to request a video of last day.* *(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

January 13, 1999

CNMI panel won't yield

Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan, head of the CNMI 902 team, strongly hinted yesterday that the local panel will unlikely agree to Washington's suggestion to discuss transition to federal immigration and minimum wage law as a way of addressing the concerns of the White House. The Northern Marianas and the United States are to resume bilateral talks Tuesday next week to tackle problems arising from differences in handling local labor and immigration policies. Both governments are still working out the final details of the itinerary of Edward B. Cohen, President Bill Clinton's special representative to the consultations, and there was no indication if gaps have been narrowed down in the parameters of discussions.

Mandatory AIDS test hits legal snag

A proposed bill requiring pregnant women in the Northern Marianas to undergo a mandatory AIDS test drew opposition yesterday over potential legal problem to the island government. In a hearing conducted by the House committee on Health, Education and Welfare, House Bill 11-327 may pose constitutional challenge because the provision mandating the test will infringe on individual rights, according to local officials. But committee chair Rep. Heinz Hofschneider said they would consider the recommendation before the House acts on the measure which aims to prevent the rise in cases of newborn babies infected with the virus that causes AIDS.

January 13, 2000

CUC spent $.5M for 80MW bidding

Amid the unpredictable outcome at today's board meeting of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation on the controversial Saipan power plant, the government has already spent more than half-a-million dollars for a project that has yet to benefit the public. Based on available public documents, the much delayed project has incurred the government-owned utility corporation at least $500,000 since planning the procurement of the 80-megawatt plant nearly three years ago. This includes the study conducted by R.W. Beck recommending such size of the plant, which cost taxpayers' money between $200,000 to $300,000.

Garment contribution to public coffers up

The garment manufacturing industry has proven its might, contributing over $39 million in total revenues to the public coffers during the fiscal year 1999, a report from the Office of the Governor showed. The $39 million generated by the government from the garment certification fees during the last fiscal year was 6.68 percent higher than the previous year's $36 million. During the period under review, the Commonwealth generated only about $19.9 million from excise taxes and at least $5.9 million from hotel occupancy tax. Income taxes were the main source of revenue for the government, contributing more than $58 million, while business gross revenue tax replenished public coffers with some $54 million.

January 13, 2003

NMI's 1st governor concerned over economic situation

Though he is away from local politics and the government now, he remains very much concerned about the current situation and the economic standing of the Commonwealth, which he had had the first chance to govern. Carlos Camacho, the Commonwealth's first elected governor, could only empathize with the incumbent leaders, particularly Gov. Juan N. Babauta, as he leads the CNMI through tough economic times. "I wish Gov. Babauta the best," said Camacho in an interview Friday. "The important thing is what he is doing to rectify the problem. And I hope he puts emphasis on that."

CPA says no—again—to MPLA restrictions

The Commonwealth Ports Authority said it will not agree to the conditions set by the Marianas Public Lands Authority over the proposed transfer of land titles in Puerto Rico. CPA executive director Carlos H. Salas said the CPA, is not amenable in particular to MPLA's proposal that the ports authority remit 20 or 25 percent of its revenues in exchange of the land titles. He said this would be tantamount to diversion of CPA's money. "The 25 percent is really a big problem. That's diverting revenue from what it's supposed to be. It's like deriving revenue from the airport and using it for public works," Salas said. "Our stand is still the same. We want these restrictions removed and we'd like the land conveyed to the CPA with no conditions.

Miura to be made suspect in death of another woman

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

File photo shows Corrections officers surrounding Kazuyoshi Miura as he is being led inside the CNMI Superior Court for a hearing.

LOS ANGELES (Kyodo)—Closing a crucial chapter in the decades-long drama surrounding Kazuyoshi Miura, who was charged with conspiracy to murder his wife, the businessman who hanged himself will officially be tied to a separate death regarding a former girlfriend whose body was found near Los Angeles in 1979.

Detective Rick Jackson, a Los Angeles Police Department investigator who has been on the Miura case for nearly 10 years, said compelling factors support that Chizuko Shiraishi was murdered and Miura was responsible.

Jackson said statements that Miura made to witnesses, circumstantial evidence such as similar financial transactions that followed the deaths of both Shiraishi and his wife, Kazumi Miura, along with other indicators, led to the reclassification.

The reclassification will mean an end to further investigations.

Jackson, along with partner Richard Bengston, pursued the official conclusion of Shiraishi's case despite Miura's death.

"We felt we owed it to the family and the Japanese public who have followed this case for years," he said.

In a memoir published in 1984, Miura denied any association with the murder of Shiraishi, who was 34 at the time of her death.

According to the L.A. police investigation report filed with the extradition papers and other sources, Shiraishi worked for a company that Miura owned during the late 1970s. After she left for Los Angeles in March 1979, she disappeared.

Two months later, the unidentified body of a person who had died of unnatural causes was found in a Los Angeles suburb. Dental records linked the remains to Shiraishi in March 1984.

Because the body was so badly decomposed when it was discovered, no physical cause of death was given by the L.A. County Coroner's office. It was concluded, however, there was a strong possibility she had been murdered.

Two days prior to Shiraishi's arrival in the United States, records show Miura was in Los Angeles. After her disappearance, the businessman withdrew a sum of more than ¥4 million from her bank account.

Following the death of his wife, Miura collected around ¥160 million from insurance policies.

"He was doing the same thing for financial gain," Jackson said. "When you look at the two cases together, it really shows you his mind-set."

In his book, Miura justified withdrawing Shiraishi's money by asserting she had sent an automated teller machine card along with a letter to his address after she went to the United States. The letter, he said, indicated she wanted to use the funds in the account to pay him back for money she owed him.

Miura was arrested on Saipan last February on charges of murder and conspiracy to murder his wife. It revived a drama that spanned decades and captured the interest of people on both sides of the Pacific.

While sightseeing in Los Angeles in 1981, his 28-year-old wife was shot in the head and died from complications a year later in Japan. Although the mysterious circumstances of her death cast Miura as a suspect, multiple issues prevented his trial in the United States.

After his arrest on Saipan and more than seven months of intense legal conflict, Miura was extradited to Los Angeles last Oct. 10. The saga came to an abrupt end when he was discovered hanged inside a detention cell less than 24 hours after he was brought to L.A.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Attention to families with disabilities on Tinian, Rota

The Family Hope Center under the CNMI Council for Developmental Disabilities and Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. would like to inform the community that the System Navigators would be traveling to Tinian and Rota to conduct interviews and follow up(s) with families with disabilities on the following dates:

Tinian Jan. 15-16, 2009
Rota Jan. 22-23, 2009

We are encouraging families with disabilities on Tinian and Rota to contact our offices at NMPASI, 234-7273/4 for Frances Torres or Dorian Camacho or CNMI DD Council for Lillian Ada at 664-7005/7000 or cell phone no. 287-5643 for an appointment. ***(PR)***

Kagman community meeting set

The Kagman Komunidat Association is inviting the public to meet at the Kagman Community Center on Thursday, Jan. 15, 2009, at 6:30pm. Issues to be discussed include the Kagman sidewalk construction, Puengin Inetnon (Kagman Friday Night Market), future and current CIP projects for Kagman (CIP coordinator Vicky Villagomez will be present), and other current community issues. Reps. Rosemond Santos and Ed Salas will also be present to discuss issues. ***(PR)***

Bayani to host cultural show fundraiser

The Bayani Association will host and launch a Filipino Cultural Show called "Balik-Tanaw Sa Kulturang Pinoy" on Jan. 17, at 7pm, at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in Garapan.

The two-hour cultural show and banquet dinner presents about 16 creative cultural dances that portray the Filipinos' regional culture, tradition and arts representing the Philippine islands of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

The CNMI Guma' Ezperansa/Karidat is the chosen beneficiary for the net proceeds of the event. ***(PR)***

Tinian High PTA meeting set

This is to inform parents and guardians of Tinian High School students that there will be a PTA meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 14, at 3:30pm at the Tinian Youth Center. All parents and guardians are encouraged to attend this important meeting. Call Herman Hofschneider, Carla SanNicolas, Lynette Hofschneider or Rose Lazaro if you have any questions. ***(PR)***

MHS Class of '88 meeting set

This is to remind the Marianas High School Class of 1988 on their meeting will be held on Friday, Jan. 16, 2009, at the residence of Melvin P. & Eleanor A. Cepeda in As Lito. ***(PR)***

WSR Elementary School January events

Jan. 15	Parent Literacy Night Workshop #2 (Kindergarten Parents) 5:30pm, WSR Library
Jan. 16	Mrs. Mary Jane Lime's class visit to dentist (8-11am)
Jan. 19	Martin Luther King Day Holiday (no classes)
Jan. 20-21	Half day (students released at 12pm), Reading first assessment testing (teachers will set appointment)
Jan. 20	Ms. Paulette Tudela's class dentist visit (8-11am)
Jan. 21	Ms.Dorina Castro's class dentist visit (8-11am)
Jan. 22	WSR school-level science fair judging, Ms. Martha Mendiola's class dentist visit (8-11am), parent literacy night workshop #3 (Kindergarten parents), 5:30pm, WSR Library
Jan. 23	WSR school-level science fair viewing (open to the public), Mrs. Divine Dela Cruz's class dentist visit (8-11am)
Jan. 26	Leadership team meeting, 2:45pm, WSR Library, Ms. Amanda Angel's class visit to dentist (8-11am)
Jan. 27	Spelling bee finals, 2:45pm, WSR cafeteria, Mr. Victor Cabrera's class visit to dentist (8-11am)
Jan. 28	Half-day (students released at 12pm) Teacher professional development, Ms. Monica Pangelinan's class visit to dentist (8-11am)
Jan. 29	Mr. Steve Gilles's class visit to dentist (8-11am), parent literacy night workshop #4 (Kindergarten parents), 5:30pm, WSR Library
Jan. 30	End of 2nd Quarter, 2nd Quarter Report Card Day (Report Card will be distributed to students, unless a parent conference is needed—teachers will make appointments with parents), Ms. Phyllis class visit to dentist (8-11am), STUCO sponsored movie day, 2:30pm, WSR Library ($1 entrance fee)
Jan. 30-31	Island-Wide Science Fair, Marianas High School

Court's amended scheduling order clears path to trial in UMDA v Pfaff

Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja of Saipan Superior Court issued an amended scheduling order on Jan. 8 in UMDA's multi-million dollar lawsuit against Robert Pfaff, John Larson, and their associates, shell companies, and offshore trusts for damages suffered by UMDA and its shareholders over a 10-year period.

The order states that "In an attempt to prevent further delay in this case, the court has cleared its calendar from February 9, 2009 until February 27, 2009 to hear all pending motions in the case." It goes on to say that "a status conference is scheduled for March 6, 2009 to jointly discuss a new scheduling order in this case."

Jose Lifoifoi, chairman of the UMDA board of directors, said: "UMDA is very pleased that the court has rejected defendants' delay tactics and set the case on track for trial later this year. It's great news to us that all pending motions will be heard in February and that the court has made it crystal clear to the lawyers for Mr. Pfaff , Mr. Larson, and their many shell companies that the time for delay is over. The defendants will finally be forced to disclose the evidence they have been wrongly hiding for so long."

Pfaff and Larson were convicted by a federal court in New York of multiple counts of tax evasion in December 2008 and Pfaff is facing another trial later this year under a second indictment charging him with misusing UMDA accounts and assets for personal gain.

Lifoifoi concluded: "UMDA has turned over countless documents showing how Mr. Pfaff and Mr. Larson hurt UMDA. Now, it's high time that the people of Micronesia have their day in court and that these convicted criminals and their cronies are called to account for the harm that they have done to the shareholders of UMDA. Although the defendants have done their best to hide their ill-gotten gains away in family trusts and shell companies, I want to assure our shareholders that we will get to the bottom of their schemes and recover the money that rightly belongs to UMDA."

UMDA was founded in 1966 in Saipan. Over the years, UMDA has been involved in a wide range of businesses, including airlines, cable systems, shipping, and resort properties. UMDA's shareholders include the government or governmental entities of the CNMI, Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, and thousands of individual Micronesians and their families. In December 2007 UMDA announced the purchase from JAL Group of the Hotel Nikko Saipan, a 313-room luxury hotel in Saipan. ***(UMDA)***

Humanities Council to host poetry competition

The NMI Council for the Humanities is reminding all junior high and high schools in the CNMI about the upcoming submission deadline for the Sixth Annual Sengebau Poetry Competition.

Poetry entries must be received by the Humanities Council no later than 4pm on Feb. 18. ach eligible school is asked to hold internal competition to select its top two entries.

Entries may be dropped at the Humanities Council's office in King's Plaza in Dandan or sent via fax at 235-4786.

CONTACT INFO

Humanities Council: 235-4785
www.nmihumanities.org

The final recital event will be held at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center Theater at 6pm on Feb. 27. First place finishers will have their names inscribed on perpetual trophies. First through third place finishers will receive cash prizes.

This event is sponsored each year to promote poetry as a literary form. The competition is open to all junior high and high school students on Saipan, Rota and Tinian.

Individuals wishing additional information about this competition are invited to contact Humanities Council staff at 235-4785 or visit its website at www.nmihumanities.org. ***(PR)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Shortchanging veterans

The idea was to give veterans a helping hand. Congress set up a nonprofit organization, gave it millions of dollars in taxpayer funds and expected it to help veterans start small businesses. It appears, though, that much of the money was used for expensive dinners, high-end travel and compensation for executives. Let's hope Congress means business when it says it wants to stop funding an organization that's done little more than pay lip service to the interests of America's service members.

Senate investigation of the National Veterans Business Development Corp., better known as the Veterans Corp., revealed "an entity that has been not only ineffective in meeting its responsibilities to our nation's veterans, but also troublingly irresponsible in its use of taxpayer dollars." The Dec. 11 report by the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship found that the group has received $17 million in federal funds since 2001 but, on average, spent just 15 percent each year to operate business centers for vets. Last year, that plummeted to 9 percent.

Equally troubling—or, as Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., put it, "appalling"—were revelations about how money was squandered on lavish perks—like more than $2,400 each for two occasions at a ritzy Washington D.C. steakhouse (no info on how many people that fed), for which no justification was provided. Or stays in luxury hotels ($380 per night for Rosewood Mansion on Turtle Creek in Dallas). Officials with the group dispute some of the report's findings, argue that they are on the right track with new leadership and say that they want to work with Congress to take any needed corrective actions.

But this is not the first time the group has come under criticism. Reports by the Government Accountability Office in 2003 and 2004 found a lack of internal controls, an inability to measure the effectiveness of programs and failure to become self-sufficient. Federal funding for the group will expire in March, and Congress should heed the recommendation of Mr. Kerry and Sen. Olympia Snowe, R-Maine, to redirect the money to the Small Business Administration's Office of Veterans Business Development. It already has in place 1,500 centers that could be used to more effectively foster entrepreneurship among veterans.

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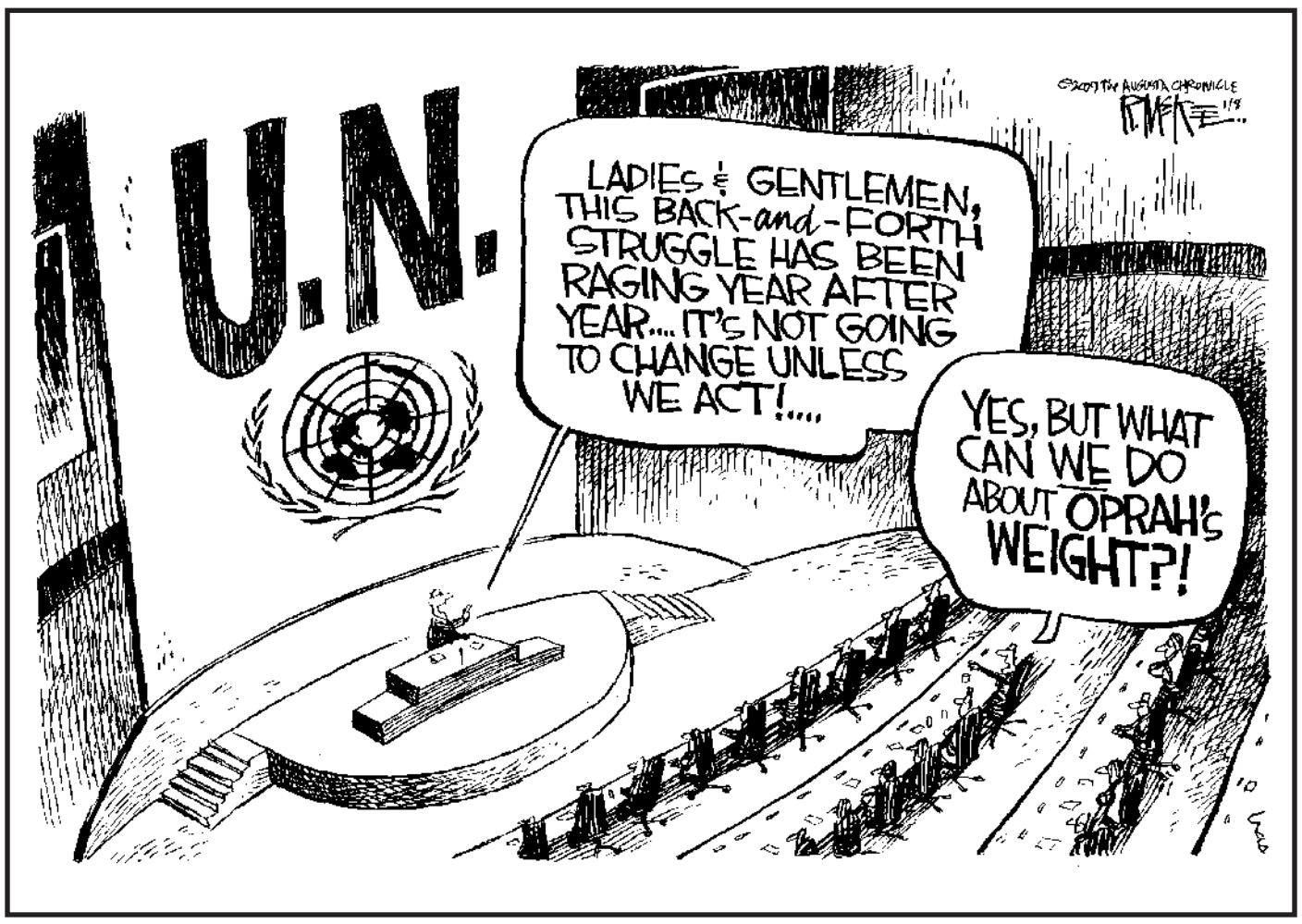
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LADIES & GENTLEMEN, THIS BACK-and-FORTH STRUGGLE HAS BEEN RAGING YEAR AFTER YEAR... IT'S NOT GOING TO CHANGE UNLESS WE ACT!....
YES, BUT WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT OPRAH'S WEIGHT?!

Peace no longer in sight

By TOM SEGEV
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

JERUSALEM—At the end of the 10th day of Israel's operation in the Gaza Strip, I was zapping between Israeli, Arab and international TV channels. The pictures grew more gruesome from moment to moment. Then a friend called to tell me that Mezzo, a French concert channel, had just started playing "Christ on the Mount of Olives," a rather obscure oratorio by Beethoven.

It happened that I had been on the Mount of Olives a few hours earlier with a Palestinian friend whose 11-year-old son, Ahmed, needed some treatment at the Augusta Victoria Hospital. It wasn't easy to get the two through the Israeli checkpoint separating their West Bank village from east Jerusalem. As we drove up the hillside, we had to navigate around burning tires that Palestinian protesters had left on the road. We were not hurt, but Ahmed was scared.

As I listened to the Beethoven on Mezzo for a while, I was doing what more Israelis tend to do these days, even as the atrocious events in Gaza continue: escaping the news and taking refuge in cultural and other non-political activities. That escapism reflects the new Israeli fatalism.

I belong to a generation of Israelis who grew up believing in peace. At the end of the Six-Day War of 1967, I was 23, and I had no doubt that 40 years later, the Israeli-Arab war would be over. Today, my son, who is 28, no longer believes in peace. Most Israelis don't. They know that Israel may not survive without peace, but from war to war, they have lost their optimism. So have I.

The latest operation in Gaza was expected and practically inevitable; the timing seemed perfect. Palestinian Hamas rockets fired from Gaza had been falling on southern Israeli towns with increasing frequency after an Egyptian-backed ceasefire expired; public pressure on the government to act mounted as the general elections scheduled for next month drew closer. Israel took advantage of the Bush administration's last days in office; the holiday season kept the international community uninterested for a few days; and the clear skies over Gaza allowed for uninterrupted air strikes.

Most Israelis believed that the operation would be short and decisive, but many feared a repetition of the disastrous adventure in Lebanon in the summer of 2006. Israelis are very spoiled. We like our wars to be short and successful.

Like any other country, Israel has a duty to defend its citizens. While the latest operation may never make it into the official count of Arab-Israeli wars, it is already another round in an endless continuum of reciprocal violence. They hit us, we hit them and vice versa; they usually miss, we usually don't.

From my perspective, the immediate blame for the latest events rests with Egypt, for it was Egyptian corruption and inefficiency that enabled Hamas to smuggle its rocket arsenal into Gaza. Yet there is a sad familiarity to all this. Apart from the conflict's cruelty—particularly toward civilians, including numerous children—the present eruption is most likely to be remembered as yet another step in a long march of folly that began in 1967.

Following the Six-Day War, the Israeli government contemplated moving hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from Gaza and resettling them in the West Bank. That could have made the present situation infinitely less convoluted. But the plans remained on paper because some of the most powerful members of the Israeli government, including the right-wing leader Menachem Begin and Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, believed that the West Bank should be reserved exclusively for Jewish settlement.

This was probably the worst mistake in Israel's history. With nearly 300,000 Israelis living in the West Bank today and an additional 200,000 living in the formerly Arab part of Jerusalem, it is almost impossible to draw sensible borders and achieve peace.

In addition to the staggering difficulty of pulling out of the West Bank and sharing Jerusalem, there is the Palestinian demand for "the right of return" to Israel proper for the Palestinian refugees who fled or were driven out of their homes during the fighting in 1948-49. Many of them and their descendants live in Gaza.

For many years, Israel has adhered to a number of basic assumptions that have never proven right. Some of these theories contributed to the operation in Gaza this time. According to one such assumption, inflicting hardship on Palestinian civilians will make the population rise up against its leaders and choose more "moderate" ones. Hence, when Hamas took over Gaza in 2007, after a short, sharp struggle with its secular rivals in Fatah, Israel imposed a blockade on the strip, pushing 1.5 million Palestinians to the verge of a humanitarian catastrophe. But Hamas has only become stronger. And here's another false Israeli assumption: that Hamas is a terrorist organization. In fact, it's also a genuine national and religious movement supported by most of the people in Gaza. It cannot be simply bombed away.

The latest violence hasonce again brought reporters from all over the world to the region. Many of them wonder why Israelis and Palestinians don't simply agree to divide the land between them. Indeed, Israeli leaders support a two-state solution, which had previously been advocated only by the extreme left. Palestinian leaders, though not the heads of Hamas, have agreed to accept this solution. Apparently, only the details of the agreement have to be worked out. If only it were that simple.

This conflict is not merely about land and water and mutual recognition. It is about national identity. Both the Israelis and the Palestinians define themselves by the Holy Land—all of it. Any territorial compromise would compel both sides to relinquish part of their identity.

In recent years, with the rise of Hamas and the increasing militance of some Jewish settlers, this precariously irrational conflict has also assumed a more religious character—and thereby become even more difficult to solve. Islamic fundamentalists, as well as

See PEACE on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The heroes who paved Obama's way

By STUART CHANG BERMAN
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—I was in downtown Washington when Barack Obama was declared president-elect. Jubilant crowds of all races fell into the streets, celebrating with raucous joy. Inexplicably, I was numb, reserved. When I got home, I turned on the television and saw Jesse Jackson break down in tears. That's when I also broke down.

My memory drifted back to my childhood during the civil rights era, when my stepfather had a position as an associate professor at Washington College in Chestertown on the Eastern Shore. Then, Maryland's Eastern Shore was no different from the Deep South. The schools and public accommodations were segregated. White working-class people lived in tidy clapboard houses on side streets. White middle-class professionals lived in Victorian homes on the main thoroughfares. The poorest whites lived in trailers on the outskirts of town. And black people lived in a shantytown with no paved streets, and with outhouses and open garbage pits that smoldered with black smoke.

As we drove from New York, my stepfather, a civil rights activist, warned me not to adopt the racist norms of white children with whom I would attend school. My mother, who was born in Beijing, said he needn't worry that I was neither white nor black.

She turned to me and said, "Son, you are Chinese, born in America."

But being Chinese presented a quandary for the segregated school system: Would I go to a white or a black school? The school board ruled that because my stepfather was white and a professor at Washington College, I was to attend a white school. It denied my stepfather's request that I attend the white school one semester and the Negro school, as it was called then, the next semester.

That year, in sixth grade, I made friends with kids who didn't seem to notice or care that I was the only student of color. I thought my stepfather was imagining things or exaggerating until one day in music class we were to sing "Mammy's Little Babies Love Shortening Bread." The boys all sang "Mammy's little niggers love shortening bread," while the girls laughed. It was clear I was no longer in New York.

Later, two schoolmates and I happened to be walking through the shantytown when a black boy stepped in front of us.

"My name is Bill and I live here," he said.

He asked what we "white boys" were doing there and, when told we were walking through, said that we would have to walk around "on your side of town."

"What if we don't want to?"

Bill pointed at each of the white boys and said, "Then, I'll fight you. Or I'll fight you."

Then he pointed at me and said, "Or I'll fight you."

We left and walked around the shantytown.

When I told my stepfather, he asked first whether the other boys told their fathers. They were too scared to admit that they had backed down from a Negro kid, I said. My stepfather said that was good, because if they told their fathers, there would be trouble with the Klan. Then he said it would be nice if I made friends with Bill.

The next day, I walked alone in the shantytown. People looked at me strangely but did not avoid me. An old man approached me and kindly asked if I was lost.

"No, sir, I'm looking for a boy about my age named Bill."

"Yes, sir, I'll lead you to his home," the man said, as if he knew me.

Bill lived with his mother in a one-room shack heated by a potbellied stove. Inside were two beds, a wooden table and two chairs. On the wall hung a picture of Jesus. Bill invited me in and apologized for his behavior the day before. He said that I was "different." He didn't say how.

We talked awhile about our schools and the World Series. Bill, like me, was an avid Yankees fan. I invited him to play at my house the next day.

We were playing in the yard of the house my family rented on High Street when my stepfather approached us. He was white, over six feet tall, with slicked-back hair and a thin, Clark Gable moustache. He always wore a suit. He told us to stay right there and went inside. Bill was visibly shaken. My stepfather returned with two bottles of Coca-Cola. He never let me drink Coke. He told Bill he was welcome to come with us to the beach that weekend.

I thought Bill would be excited, but he wasn't. He asked which beach we would go to, and I said the president of the college had a summer home on the bay with a private beach. Bill politely declined. When I asked why, he said that he was Negro and the people there would be white.

But the people there would all be college people, I said.

Bill said, "You don't understand, Stu." He told me that white people would be white people no matter where they lived. "But, someday things are going to change," he said. "Change real soon."

A year later, my stepfather got a position at American University. Things would be different, I thought. We settled in Prince George's County, then a predominantly white working-class community. Segregation was de facto. White kids went to schools zoned for white communities, relegating black kids to schools in black communities. The high school I attended was white except for a handful of Asians.

In my junior year, 1964, before the Civil Rights Act was passed, the de facto code was broken. A black student named Dwight enrolled in the college-bound program.

Dwight was in my French class, a long class that broke for lunch every day and reconvened afterward. Dwight would remain in the classroom and eat a bagged lunch. One day, he offered to share with me. Thereafter I brought a bagged lunch and ate with Dwight.

The classroom overlooked the area outside where students smoked. When we looked out the windows at them, more than a few raised their middle fingers.

"I think I'm going to grab a smoke. Join me?" Dwight asked one day.

I was going to decline when I heard Bill's voice: "Things are going to change. Change real soon."

We went to the smoking area and each had a cigarette. As we left, kids flicked their lit cigarettes at us. On the way back to class, threats and racial slurs echoed in the hall.

I couldn't help thinking of Bill and Dwight on Election Day. As Bill predicted, things did, indeed, change. How soon they changed is relative. Barack Obama was born during those years, but an African American president of the United States is a historic first I never thought I would see.

The heroics and glory of those years belong to Bill and Dwight and all those who struggled for their people and struggled to make the United States a better place, what it is today. I just happened to be there, walking alongside them and bearing witness as we journeyed down this long, long road.

Stuart Chang Berman is a screenwriter and the author, most recently, of Potsticker Chronicles.

When my troop hailed the chief

By COLBERT I. KING
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—This time around, the newly minted president of the United States will have to make his way to the White House from the Capitol without my participation. I'm scheduled to watch the proceedings from the roof of a building on the parade route as part of a team providing television commentary.

Fifty-six years ago, it was a different story.

After Dwight David Eisenhower was sworn in as the nation's 34th president, he and I traveled the same route to 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. There were just a few minor differences.

He rode in a shiny black limousine. I hoofed it from start to finish.

His journey ended at the White House. My legs kept moving for four or five blocks.

His travel companion was his wife, Mamie.

I shared those special moments in 1953 with 600 other Boy Scouts marching in mass formation with American flags in Eisenhower's first presidential inauguration.

The story of my participation in the Parade of '53, billed as the longest in three-quarters of a century if not in American history, has been told before. It's worth repeating now because that procession and the security arrangements surrounding it are unlikely to be replicated in my lifetime.

The holiday mood in 1953 was evident across downtown Washington. People flocked to the event and mingled freely without having to navigate security checkpoints staffed by steely-eyed guards.

The procession kicked off in the early afternoon and went on for four hours and 39 minutes. It had more than 750,000 spectators, 25,000 marchers, 75 bands, 59 floats, cowboys, members of the armed forces, a 280mm cannon that was longer than the White House reviewing stand, herds of horses and elephants, and blimps overhead.

It also was my first real experience with "hurry up and wait." We Scouts were ordered to assemble around 10 a.m. in a park near the Capitol, where we were left standing under sunny skies and unseasonably warm weather that grew colder as the day went on.

True, I saw the day through the eyes of an eighth-grader representing a Scout troop sponsored by 19th Street Baptist Church. But the news clips that I consulted in writing this column underscore the extent to which times have changed.

The Secret Service had to spring into action in '53—but only against a few enthusiastic spectators who managed to break from behind the police cordon at the intersection of Constitution and Louisiana Avenues to run to Eisenhower's car. What happened? Agents simply shooed them back behind the ropes. Don't try that this time.

Then there was the cowboy who rode right up to the reviewing stand and lassoed the smiling president as the crowds roared with delight and the Secret Service had fits. Imagine that happening today.

Another episode from Inauguration Day '53 that will never be repeated: The Washington D.C. police band reportedly got a rousing cheer as it passed before the presidential reviewing stand playing "Dixie." Thank goodness those times are gone.

But one issue hasn't changed. The Post reported the case of three Trinity College students—Florence Sullivan, Mary Keefe and Mary Laforest—who used the parade to tell the world about the city's disenfranchisement. They held signs that read, "We Have No Vote but Much Taxation," "D.C. Scandal Rocks the Nation" and "District Suffrage." Nearly 60 years ago, friends.

But none of that was on the minds of Boy Scouts waiting to do their good turn for the day. We just wanted our chance to march up Pennsylvania Avenue past the presidential reviewing stand. As the day gave way to twilight, however, fear set in that many in the crowd might be gone by the time we left the Capitol area.

Finally our time came. We stepped off in darkness. People were standing along the way, but not as many as when the presidential motorcade had passed by hours earlier. It was too dark to see the decorations along the avenue or spectators in platform seats.

But we kept on stepping.

When our formation turned onto 15th Street, we got none of the confetti or ticker tape that had fallen from buildings when Eisenhower went by. Band music could be heard in the distance, but the sounds were almost drowned out by the noise of 600 pairs of shoes scuffing the pavement. And then we made a left turn onto Pennsylvania Avenue and entered the final stretch that led in the direction of Washington Circle.

By luck, I was lined up on the left flank of the group, nearest the president's reviewing stand. The streets were dark, the moon was out, the crowds had thinned. As we drew abreast of the giant wooden structure, I was surprised to see a half-empty reviewing stand bathed in bright lights.

There, standing ramrod straight with his black homburg over his heart, was the president of the United States.

Ike had waited for us.

PEACE

From Page 10

Jewish ones, have made control of the land part of their faith, and that faith is dearer to them than human life.

So I find myself among the new majority of Israelis who no longer believe in peace with the Palestinians. The positions are simply too far apart at this time.

I no longer believe in solving the conflict. What I do believe in is better conflict management—including talks with Hamas, which is a taboo that must be broken. The need for U.S. engagement has led me, along with many other Israelis, to harbor high hopes for the administration of Barack Obama. The Bush administration was mainly concerned with keeping alive a diplomatic fiction called "The Peace Process." But there really was no such "process." Instead, the oppression of the Palestinians continued and intensified, even after Israel had evacuated several thousand settlers from Gaza in 2005. More settlements were put up in the West Bank.

The friendliest thing that President Obama can do for Israel in the long run would be to induce her to return to her original purpose: to be a Jewish and democratic country. Rather than design another fictitious "road map" for peace, the Obama administration may be more useful and successful by trying merely to manage the conflict, aiming at a more limited yet urgently needed goal: to make life more livable for both Israelis and Palestinians.

Tom Segev, a columnist for the Israeli newspaper Haaretz*, is the author, most recently, of* 1967: Israel, the War and the Year That Transformed the Middle East.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly sunny with a slight chance of light showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly sunny with a slight chance of light showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly sunny with a slight chance of light showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly sunny with a slight chance of light showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

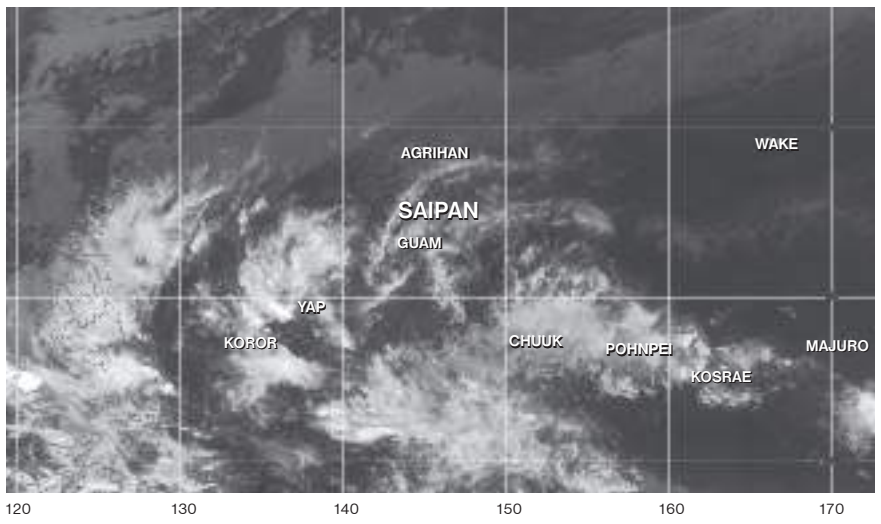
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Sunny	▲84	▼75
Palau	Showers	▲87	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲85	▼76
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼77
Pohnpei	Rain	▲85	▼77
Kosrae	Showers	▲86	▼77
Majuro	Partly Sunny	▲84	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲75	▼61
Beijing	Sunny	▲35	▼19
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲62	▼55
Honolulu	Sunny	▲80	▼67
London	Showers	▲46	▼36
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲83	▼50
Manila	Showers	▲79	▼71
Melbourne	Sunny	▲94	▼77
Miami	Showers	▲80	▼52
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲42	▼23
Osaka	Rain/Snow	▲42	▼28
Paris	Showers	▲38	▼34
Pusan	Sunny	▲40	▼20
Rome	Rain	▲55	▼46
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲46	▼28
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲64	▼47
Seoul	Sunny	▲27	▼ 6
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲47	▼29
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲42	▼25

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, JAN. 12, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front enters the discussion area at 25N167E and extends southwestward to east of the CNMI at 20N153E then continues as a shear line through Anatahan at 17N146E to beyond 130E at 11N. Extensive cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and up to 300 miles northwest of this boundary. A near-equatorial trough extends southeastward from near Mindanao at 8N130E to a weak circulation centered south of Koror at 4N134E then turns eastward through another circulation centered south of Yap at 6N140E and finally turns southeastward to end at EQ155E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near the trough axis over Koror but south of Yap within 85 miles of a line from 8N132E to 2N142E. Similar conditions also exist along the eastern end of the trough axis well south of Guam and Chuuk within 105 miles of a line from 8N141E to 2N147E to EQ152E. A low-level trough runs northward from the circulation near Yap to 13N141E.Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are seen near the trough axis over Yap between 9N and 13N from 135E to 142E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Chuuk, Pohnpei and just east of Kosrae within 125 miles of a line from 8N152E to 5N168E. Identical weather is also found over Tarawa atoll and northeastward to the dateline within 125 miles of a line from 1N173E to 6N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
3:07AM Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
10:06AM Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
3:42PM Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
8:37PM Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:46AM	6:05 PM
Wednesday	6:47AM	6:06 PM
Thursday	6:47AM	6:06 PM
Friday	6:47AM	6:07 PM
Saturday	6:47AM	6:07 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:20PM	8:23AM
Wednesday	9:17PM	9:07AM
Thursday	10:11PM	9:48AM
Friday	11:03PM	10:27AM
Saturday	11:35PM	11:05AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 1, 2009

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota			
CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7
Saipan-Guam			
CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	2,3,4,5,6
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita			
NW 099	5:00am	7:35am	Daily
NW 078	8:20am	1:30pm	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm	Daily
Guam-Narita			
NW 73	4:10pm	7:00pm	Daily
NW 81	3:55pm	6:55pm	Daily
Saipan-Osaka			
OZ 119	4:00am	6:40am	1,4,6
NW 083	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
Guam-Osaka			
NW 79	4:45pm	7:35pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			
NW 078	8:20am	11:05am	Daily
Guam-Nagoya			
NW 23	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Incheon			
OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 119	4:00am	11:25am	1,4,6 via Osaka
OZ 606	3:20pm	7:00pm	Daily
Saipan-Busan			
OZ 608	3:20am	6:50am	1,4,5,7
Saipan-Shanghai			
FM 844	2:50am	5:40am	2,6
Rota-Guam			
CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7
Guam-Palau			
CO 953	7:40pm	8:40pm	1,7
CO 893	5:50pm	6:50pm	3,5
Palau-Manila			
CO 893	7:35pm	9:10pm	3,5
Guam-Manila			
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:50am	1,2,4,6,7
Nagoya-Manila			
NW 71	8:40pm	11:55pm	Daily
Incheon-Hongkong			
OZ 721	9:20am	12:00pm	Daily
OZ 723	7:45pm	10:35pm	Daily
OZ 7173	8:00pm	10:50pm	5,7
Narita-Manila			
NW 1	7:00pm	10:55pm	Daily

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan			
CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6
Guam-Saipan			
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	1,2,3,4,7
CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Narita-Saipan			
NW 076	10:15am	2:40pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:20am+1	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 100	8:45pm	1:10am+1	Daily
Narita-Guam			
NW 74	9:45am	2:20pm	Daily
NW 82	10:30am	3:10pm	Daily
Osaka-Saipan			
OZ 120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	3,5,7
NW 084	10:40am	3:05pm	Daily
Osaka-Guam			
NW 80	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily
Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 077	9:00pm	1:20am+1	Daily
Nagoya-Guam			
NW 24	10:00am	2:30pm	Daily
Incheon-Saipan			
OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3,5,7 via Osaka
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Busan-Saipan			
OZ 607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	3,4,6,7
Shanghai-Saipan			
FM 843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1,5
Guam-Rota			
CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6
Palau-Guam			
CO 954	2:30am	5:25am	1,2
CO 892	2:35am	5:30am	4,6
Manila-Palau			
CO 892	10:10pm	1:50am+1	3,5
Manila-Guam			
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:10pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7
Manila-Nagoya			
NW 72	6:30am	11:05am	Daily
Hongkong-Incheon			
OZ 724	12:30am	4:50am	Daily
OZ 7183	12:45am	5:05am	1,4,6
OZ 722	1:30pm	5:45pm	Daily
Manila-Narita			
NW 2	7:45am	12:40pm	Daily

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Business

US automakers polish their images at Detroit show

DETROIT (AP)—We're different, and our new stuff is really good. In a nutshell, that's what General Motors, Ford and Chrysler tried to tell consumers—and taxpayers—Sunday as they rolled out an array of new vehicles at the North American International Auto Show.

They told their stories in different ways, with Chrysler LLC making its senior executives available to assure people that it remains a viable company. General Motors Corp. held a pep rally with hundreds of cheering employees and supporters who watched a parade of 17 new and upcoming vehicles. Ford Motor Co. emphasized its plans for electric vehicles, joining the list of automakers that have promised one next year.

The fanfare, on opening day of the Detroit show's press preview, comes after a year of dismal sales that forced GM and Chrysler to get $17.4 billion in federal loans to stay alive. Ford doesn't need money now but says it might in 2010 if U.S. sales don't improve.

But industry analysts say the automakers could still be in trouble this year if U.S. auto sales don't recover. Several are predicting annual sales of around 10.5 million—almost 6 million below 2007 levels—as consumers delay major purchases due to economic uncertainty. In the third quarter of last year, GM and Ford each spent more than $1 billion per month above their income.

On Sunday, the U.S.-based automakers touted new products with a focus on fuel efficiency that they say will help return them to financial health and ensure that their cars and trucks will roll off assembly lines for years to come.

GM said it would build a 40-mile-per-gallon minicar for the U.S. market, and it unveiled an electric-powered Cadillac concept car.

Ford announced plans to put a battery-powered commercial van on the market in 2010, with an electric car coming a year later, followed by plug-in versions of its gas-electric hybrid vehicles in 2012.

Chrysler showed off a sleek new midsize electric concept car called the 200C, and one of its executives said it could be the inspiration for a new midsize car to compete with Toyota's top-selling Camry.

Chrysler CEO Robert Nardelli told reporters that while its key new products won't show up in dealer showrooms until next year, the Auburn Hills automaker expects to survive 2009 and remain an independent company.

Yet many analysts say that because of Chrysler's 30 percent sales drop last year and 53 percent decline in December, and a model lineup that doesn't change significantly this year, the company will be forced to sell itself to another automaker or be sold off in pieces by majority owner Cerberus Capital Management LP, a New York private equity firm.

Chrysler Vice Chairman Jim Press said dealers are reporting they are losing 25 percent of sales in showrooms due to a lack of available credit, and says sales will improve if credit loosens. He also said the December sales drop was due to an intentional cut in low-profit sales to rental car companies and other fleet buyers.

Nardelli said the company came out with the new Dodge Ram pickup, Journey crossover and Challenger sports car in 2008, all excellent products that should sell in a better economic environment.

AP

The Scion exhibit is seen at the North American International Auto Show Sunday, Jan. 11, 2009 in Detroit.

Detroit auto show strips out glitz in rough times

By TOM KRISHER
AUTO WRITER

DETROIT (AP)—The streets of downtown Detroit will be free of cattle this year, and there won't be any Jeeps flying through the windows of the convention center.

With the entire auto industry suffering, and Chrysler LLC and General Motors Corp. on government life support, this year's North American International Auto Show will be a much more spartan affair with fewer elaborate displays, less glitz and none of the crazy headline-grabbing stunts of past years.

"Those kinds of things, it's not the right year to do those," said Doug Fox, who runs several Ann Arbor-area car dealerships and is co-chairman of this year's show. "The money just isn't there to be spent on those things."

Several prominent automakers, including Nissan Motor Co., are completely skipping what has been one of the world's most important auto shows.

That doesn't mean there won't be news. More than 6,300 journalists from around the world have signed up for the three press preview days starting Sunday, about 100 more than last year. Many will be reporting on Detroit's economic woes and the auto sales slump that has hit nearly every manufacturer.

So far, the automakers have committed to revealing 50 new models. That's down from 58 last year, but show organizers say there may be some surprises in store to boost the number.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Many states' lottery sales are rising in recession

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Even in these tough economic times, many people are feeling lucky. More than half of all states with lotteries have reported rising sales over the past six months, and some researchers say financial insecurity might be driving people to risk more of their money than usual on $1 and $5 instant scratch-offs and other daily games in hopes of a big payoff. "Someday somebody is going to win and I hope it is me," said Albert Atwood of Nashville, who spends $100 weekly playing the Pick 5 and Lotto Plus. "I imagine that I would be a heap better off if I saved this money, but everybody has dreams." Driven by regulars like Atwood and a growing number of occasional players, 25 of 42 states with lotteries have experienced higher sales of scratch-off and daily lottery games since July, according to Scientific Games, a maker of scratch-offs.

Citi-Morgan talk may spark fresh wave of deals

NEW YORK (AP)—The anticipated combination of brokerage units at Citigroup and Morgan Stanley is seen by analysts as the likely start of a fresh wave of consolidation in the troubled and thinning banking industry. The potential deal between Citi and Morgan Stanley, which could be announced as early as Monday, underscores the problems still facing the industry after a year in which several well-known financial firms toppled under the weight of rising losses tied to bad mortgages. "This really shows the continued vulnerability of the banking system," said Keith Springer, president of Capital Financial Advisory Services. During the past several months of financial turmoil, many banks have had to overhaul their business models. Morgan Stanley and Goldman Sachs Group Inc. became bank holding companies shortly after rival Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. filed for bankruptcy protection and Merrill Lynch & Co. was sold to Bank of America Corp. in an emergency sale initially valued at $50 billion. Investors had grown concerned that stand-alone investment banks would no longer be viable amid continued weakness in the credit markets.

Price of gas up nearly 12 cents after long slide

CAMARILLO, Calif. (AP)—The average national price of gasoline rose nearly 12 cents in the past three weeks, marking the first price hike after six months of steady decreases, according to a national survey released Sunday. The average price of regular gasoline Friday was $1.78 a gallon, oil industry analyst Trilby Lundberg said. The price of mid-grade was $1.91 a gallon and the price of premium was $2.02 a gallon. The increase was the first since July 11, when the average national price peaked at $4.11 a gallon. Of cities surveyed, the nation's lowest price was $1.34 in Billings, Mont. The highest price was $2.32 in Anchorage, Alaska.

Quick tapping of unspent $350 billion in works

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senate Democratic leaders said a vote could come as early as this week on providing a second $350 billion for the financial industry, after assurances Sunday by President-elect Barack Obama and one of his top economic advisers that the money would be better monitored and spent.

The Bush administration and the incoming Obama team have undertaken a tag-team effort to obtain the money from reluctant lawmakers, to have it waiting for Obama when he's sworn in Jan. 20.

President George W. Bush would request the additional money for the Troubled Asset Relief Program, or TARP, but the incoming administration would allocate it. Obama's economic adviser, Larry Summers, briefed lawmakers Sunday on the bailout and on the incoming administration's plan for roughly $800 billion in spending and tax breaks to spur the economy.

AP

In this photograph provided by ABC News, President-elect Barack Obama is interviewed by George Stephanopoulos during the taping of "This Week with George Stephanopoulos" Saturday, Jan. 10, 2009 at the Newseum in Washington.

Senate Banking Committee Chairman Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., said Sunday that lawmakers were assured there would be fuller accounting of the money spent on the bailout. Banks and other financial institutions have received billions from the government with few rules, and most won't say where the money has gone.

Nation

Senate boosts wilderness protection across US

WASHINGTON (AP)—In a rare Sunday session, the Senate advanced legislation that would set aside more than 2 million acres in nine states as wilderness. Majority Democrats assembled more than enough votes to overcome GOP stalling tactics in an early showdown for the new Congress.

Republicans complained that Democrats did not allow amendments on the massive bill, which calls for the largest expansion of wilderness protection in 25 years. But Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., and other Democrats said the bill—a holdover from last year—was carefully written and included measures sponsored by both Republicans and Democrats.

By a 66-12 vote, with only 59 needed to limit debate, lawmakers agreed to clear away procedural hurdles despite partisan wrangling that had threatened pledges by leaders to work cooperatively as the new Obama administration takes office. Senate approval is expected later this week. Supporters hope the House will follow suit.

AP

This Aug. 2, 2003 picture shows Lake Superior seen from the North Ridge hiking trail at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore near Munising, Mich.

"Today is a great day for America's public lands," said the bill's sponsor, Sen. Jeff Bingaman, D-N.M. "This big, bipartisan package of bills represents years of work by senators from many states, and both parties, in cooperation with local communities, to enhance places that make America so special."

The measure—actually a collection of about 160 bills—would confer the government's highest level of protection on land ranging from California's Sierra Nevada mountain range to Oregon's Mount Hood, Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado and parts of the Jefferson National Forest in Virginia. Land in Idaho's Owyhee canyons, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore in Michigan and Zion National Park in Utah also would be designated as wilderness.

Besides new wilderness designations, the bill would designate the childhood home of former President Bill Clinton in Hope, Ark., as a national historic site and expand protections for dozens of national parks, rivers and water resources.

Reid said about half the bills in the lands package were sponsored by Republicans. Most had been considered for more than a year.

"I am happy that after months of delay we will finally be moving forward," Reid said.

The bill's chief opponent, Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., denounced what he called Democratic bullying tactics.

"I am disappointed the Senate majority leader has refused to allow senators the opportunity to improve, amend or eliminate any of the questionable provisions in his omnibus lands bill," Coburn told fellow senators.

Storm blankets snow across Midwest and New England

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—A weekend winter storm blanketed parts of the Midwest and Northeast with up to a foot of snow, causing a 59-vehicle pileup and at least four traffic fatalities.

In New Hampshire, three buses and two tractor-trailer rigs were among 59 vehicles that crashed on snowy Interstate 93, sending a dozen people to hospitals Sunday morning and temporarily shutting down a stretch of the highway's northbound lanes.

None of the injuries were life threatening, but it took emergency crews about an hour to remove one man from a car wedged under the back of a tractor trailer, Derry Fire Battalion Chief Jack Webb said.

A Maryland teen was killed Sunday when he lost control of his SUV on an icy road and ran into a telephone pole near Union Mills. Authorities in Michigan said a 49-year-old man died when his snowmobile collided with a snow plow Saturday in Dorr Township. Motorists also died Saturday in Illinois and Indiana.

The snow was a boon to Ohio ski resorts, which called it a stimulus package for their industry.

"We've been in business for 47 years and—this is what I can't believe—yesterday was by far the best gross sales day we've ever had," said George Shaffer, area manager of the Alpine Valley ski resort east of Cleveland in Geauga County, where 11 inches of snow fell.

Residents in Massachusetts and Rhode Island heeded the authorities' warnings to stay off roads after the storm dumped up to 9 inches of snow in some areas and sleet and freezing rain across Rhode Island. Some communities declared snow emergencies to help cleanup crews plow streets.

Speaker: Bill wouldn't have stopped Blagojevich

CHICAGO (AP)—The speaker of the Illinois House said Sunday he doesn't think a bill taking away the governor's power to appoint President-elect Barack Obama's Senate replacement would have stopped Gov. Rod Blagojevich from making the appointment.

If the Legislature had passed a bill calling for a special election to fill the seat, Blagojevich could have vetoed it and made the appointment before an override vote could be held, Speaker Michael Madigan said on WGN-AM.

But House Republican Leader Tom Cross called the Democrats' failure to push for a special election "a huge mistake."

"It's indicative of a kind of behavior and attitude of 'We don't get it, we've learned nothing and we're going to keep doing things the same old way,'" Cross said, speaking on WGN after Madigan.

■■■

CHICAGO (AP)—Illinois Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn is offering his plan for reforming Illinois government but says restoring public faith in state government won't be easy.

In an op-ed piece published Sunday in the Chicago Tribune, Quinn makes five recommendations for cleaning up state government.

They include better enforcement of ethics laws and ending automatic pay raises for high-level public officials without a vote.

Quinn will become governor if Gov. Rod Blagojevich is removed from office over corruption charges. Blagojevich was impeached Friday by the Illinois House and now faces a trial in the state Senate.

■■■

Soon after Blagojevich's Dec. 9 arrest on federal corruption charges, legislative leaders said they were preparing to quickly schedule a special election.

However, no bill was put forward, and Blagojevich appointed former Illinois Attorney General Roland Burris to the seat on Dec. 30. Senate Democrats have refused to seat Burris because of the federal charges against the governor, which include allegations he tried to sell the seat to the highest bidder.

Senate leaders have appeared to soften their stance on seating Burris. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said the Senate would vote on whether to seat Burris after Senate lawyers review documents he has presented and look over his testimony before the Illinois House impeachment panel.

First US count finds 1 in 200 kids are vegetarian

Sam Silverman is co-captain of his high school football team—a safety accustomed to bruising collisions. But that's nothing compared with the abuse he gets for being a vegetarian.

"I get a lot of flak for it in the locker room," said the 16-year-old junior at Westborough High School in Massachusetts.

"All the time, my friends try to get me to eat meat and tell me how good it tastes and how much bigger I would be," said Silverman, who is 5-foot-10 and 170 pounds. "But for me, there's no real temptation."

Silverman may feel like a vegetable vendor at a butchers' convention, but about 367,000 other kids are in the same boat, according to a recent study that provides the government's first estimate of how many children avoid meat. That's about 1 in 200.

Other surveys suggest the rate could be four to six times that among older teens who have more control over what they eat than young children do.

Vegetarian diets exclude meat, but the name is sometimes loosely worn. Some self-described vegetarians eat fish or poultry on occasion, while others—called vegans—cut out animal products of any kind, including eggs and dairy products.

Anecdotally, adolescent vegetarianism seems to be rising, thanks in part to YouTube animal slaughter videos that shock the developing sensibilities of many U.S. children. But there isn't enough long-term data to prove that, according to government researchers.

The new estimate of young vegetarians comes from a recent federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study of alternative medicine based on a survey of thousands of Americans in 2007. ***(AP)***

ACROSS THE NATION

Speedy trial issue lands before US Supreme Court

BENNINGTON, Vt. (AP)—After he was charged with hitting his girlfriend in the face, career criminal Michael Brillon sat in jail without bail for nearly three years, going through six public defenders before being tried for assault. The delays paid off—for Brillon: A Vermont court threw out his conviction and freed him from prison last spring, saying his Sixth Amendment right to a speedy trial had been violated. Now, the U.S. Supreme Court is taking up the case this week, trying to decide if delays caused by public defenders can deprive a criminal defendant of that right. In particular: Whether governments can be blamed for such delays since they're the ones who assign and pay the lawyers for indigent defendants. Forty states and 15 organizations—state governments, county governments, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, a victim's rights' group—are backing the Vermont prosecutor's appeal of the ruling, worried that if it stands criminal suspects will try to game the system and get the result Brillon did.

Chicago boy, 4, dies after mauled by family's dog

CHICAGO (AP)—A 4-year-old boy in Chicago has died after he was mauled by his family's Rottweiler. Chicago Fire Department spokeswoman Eve Rodriguez says the boy was found Sunday afternoon in the backyard of his home in the city's Southwest Side. He was taken to Holy Cross Hospital, but died from his wounds by the time he arrived. She says the boy's family has more than one dog and that the Rottweiler has been taken away by the Chicago Department of Animal Care and Control. It was not immediately known what would happen to the animal. Chicago Police Department spokeswoman Sgt. Antoinette Ursitti says officers are investigating but no one has been charged.

Salmonella prompts peanut butter recall

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—An Ohio distributor says it has recalled two brands of its peanut butter after an open container tested positive for salmonella bacteria. Federal health officials said the company's peanut butter had not been conclusively linked to a national salmonella outbreak. King Nut Companies said in a statement that it asked customers to stop distributing all peanut butter under its King Nut and Parnell's Pride brands with a lot code that begins with the numeral "8." The peanut butter was distributed only through food service providers in Ohio, Michigan, North Dakota, Minnesota, Arizona, Idaho, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Florida. It was not sold directly to consumers. Preliminary laboratory testing found salmonella bacteria in a 5-pound container of King Nut brand creamy peanut butter, the Minnesota Department of Health said Friday.

Asia

Biden: US will help fight terror in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Vice President-elect Joe Biden promised U.S. support for Afghanistan's struggle against terrorism, drugs and corruption, in surprise visit Sunday to a dangerous Taliban-stronghold area of Afghanistan.

The future of the region where al-Qaida planned the Sept. 11 attacks, Biden said, "affects us all."

Underscoring the difficulties of the fight to come, hundreds of militants crossed from eastern Afghanistan and attacked paramilitary forces in the lawless frontier of neighboring Pakistan on the same day Biden visited Afghanistan's southern Kandahar and Helmand provinces.

Six troops and 40 insurgents were killed in the clash in Mohmand agency along the volatile border, said a military official speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not permitted to talk to the media.

President-elect Barack Obama has promised to end the war in Iraq and refocus U.S. military efforts on Afghanistan, where al-Qaida-linked militants and the Taliban are making a comeback after initial defeats in the U.S.-led invasion in 2001.

The U.S. is rushing up to 30,000 more troops to Afghanistan and some will go to these southern provinces.

Southern Afghanistan is one of the centers of the Afghan Taliban-led insurgency, which left some 6,400 people—mostly militants—dead in 2008 alone.

AP

Afghanistan's President Hamid Karzai, right, talks with U.S. Vice President-elect Joe Biden, left, during a meeting at the presidential palace in Kabul, Saturday, Jan. 10, 2009.

The southern provinces are also the world's largest drug producing areas, and hundreds of millions of dollars from the trade finance the insurgency, as well as feed the corruption among government officials.

Biden said the U.S. will continue with its struggle against terrorism, but also fight the drug trade and help the government tackle the corruption in its midst, said Daud Ahmadi, spokesman for Ghulab Mangal, the governor of Helmand province.

Biden met Mangal and other Afghan officials inside a coalition base on the outskirts of Helmand's provincial capital of Lashkar Gah, Ahmadi said.

"I am very interested in what becomes of this region because it affects us all," Biden said during his visit to the neighboring Kandahar province, according to a statement issued by the NATO-led force. Biden was on the second day of his trip to Afghanistan.

Biden was briefed on activities of coalition forces in the south by Dutch Maj. Gen. Mart C. de Kruif, NATO's regional commander.

They discussed "the future of southern Afghanistan, to include the addition of American troops later this year," the statement said.

Some 32,000 U.S. troops already in Afghanistan serve alongside 32,000 other NATO-led and coalition troops, the highest number since the U.S.-led invasion to oust the Taliban from power began in 2001.

American, British, Canadian, and Dutch troops bore the brunt of the fighting in this region in the last two years, and NATO's call for other nations to join the fight have fallen on deaf ears.

Biden "reaffirmed his and President-elect Barack Obama's pledge to fully support troops and their efforts in the region," the NATO statement said.

America's top general in Afghanistan, Gen. David McKiernan, told Biden on Saturday that thousands of new American troops expected in the country's south will need more support items "like helicopters, engineers, military police, transportation assets," said Col. Greg Julian, a U.S. military spokesman.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Father rescues 3 children from fire, dies trying to rescue fourth in RP capital

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Fire officials say a father rescued three of his children from their burning house in the Philippine capital, then went back for his remaining son and died with the 12-year-old in his arms. Fire Officer Lords Hernandez says 40-year-old Jimmy Yu and his son were trapped by flames that gutted 20 structures and left 250 people homeless in Manila's Chinatown district early Monday. He says investigators suspect faulty electrical wiring as a possible cause of the seven-hour blaze. Hernandez says Yu brought out three of his children and went back in for his 12-year-old but they never came out. Firefighters later retrieved the charred bodies, which were found embracing each other. Yu's wife suffered burns on her face but survived.

Gaza protests target US consulate in Pakistan

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)—Security forces used tear gas and batons to repel anti-Israel protesters who tried to attack a U.S. consulate in Pakistan Sunday, as tens of thousands in Europe, the Middle East and Asia demonstrated against Israel's offensive in Gaza. A protest in the Belgian capital that drew 30,000 turned violent as well, with demonstrators overturning cars and smashing shop windows. And in Manila, Philippines, policemen used shields to disperse students protesting outside the U.S. Embassy. Israel launched its campaign in Gaza on Dec. 27 to stop rocket fire from the militant Palestinian group Hamas. Gaza health officials say nearly 870 Palestinians have been killed, roughly half of them civilians. Thirteen Israelis have also died. Some 2,000 protesters in the Pakistani port city of Karachi burned U.S. flags and chanted anti-Israel slogans, and several hundred of them marched on the U.S. Consulate, senior police official Ameer Sheikh said.

6 troops, 40 militants killed in Pakistan attack

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—Hundreds of militants, many from Afghanistan, attacked a Pakistani paramilitary camp in a lawless northwestern tribal region early Sunday, sparking a major clash that left six security troops and 40 insurgents dead. The brazen raid in Mohmand suggested sophisticated cross-border coordination among Taliban militants nesting in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and underscored the continued strength of the militancy despite an ongoing Pakistani military offensive. Insurgents attacked the Pakistani Frontier Corps' camp at about 2 a.m. (2100 GMT Saturday) with mortars and rockets, then used small arms to fire on a checkpoint near the Mohammad Ghat camp, said a paramilitary official, who gave details on condition of anonymity because he was not permitted to comment to the media. The 600 or so attackers were eventually driven off, but scattered skirmishes continued, he said.

Japanese reading of WWII history stirs debate

TOKYO (AP)—Toshio Tamogami draws a full pension, gives lectures, appears on TV talk shows and is treated with respect.

Not bad for a general who two months ago was fired for writing an essay justifying Japan's entry into World War II.

The case of the ousted air force chief reveals how the idea that Japan's war was justified still lives on in the minds of many Japanese, including powerful ones.

When Japan went to war, the nation was told it was for self-defense, to free Asia from Western colonial powers, and to deter the United States from attacking Japan.

Japan officially abandoned that view of history after its crushing defeat in 1945, but every so often a Japanese high-up would roil the waters by justifying Japanese conduct in the war and treatment of its neighbors. Not until 1995 did a Japanese prime minister acknowledge his country was an aggressor that had brought about great suffering in Asia.

The air force chief's essay shows that Japan's argument with history isn't over.

It was entered in a contest sponsored by a commercial company and conducted by Toshio Motoya, a right-leaning businessman. Motoya said 235 essays were submitted, one-third by air force officers, and most shared Tamogami's views.

"We should review our perspective of history and become a truly independent nation, or our future is at risk," Motoya said. "I'm confident Mr. Tamogami will get credit some day for sacrificing his job by what he wrote."

Tamogami called his essay "Was Japan an Aggressor Nation?" and wrote that Japan has been unjustly subjected to "the history of the victor."

He also said his country deserves praise for building universities in Taiwan and Korea when they were Japanese colonies before the war.

The affair made headlines and stirred debate in parliament.

Storm sinks Indonesian ferry, 250 feared dead

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—A ferry capsized in a severe storm and crashing waves in central Indonesia on Sunday and officials said around 250 people were feared dead.

Eighteen survivors were rescued by fishing boats, but the fate of the others remained unclear, said Taufik, a port official at Parepare on the island of Sulawesi, where the ferry began its journey. Taufik uses one name, as is common in Indonesia.

About 250 passengers and 17 crew are believed to have been onboard the ferry when it went down 30 miles (50 kilometers) off the coast off western Sulawesi. Indonesians generally don't know how to swim and it was feared that most onboard would have drowned.

Transport Minister Jusman Syafi'i Djamal said the captain—who was among those pulled alive from the sea—reported that 150 people jumped off the boat before it sank, but he did not know what happened to them.

"We have prepared a search and rescue operation, but now there are high waves hampering the process," Djamal said.

The 700-ton Teratai Prima sank en route from the western port of Parepare on the island of Sulawesi to Samarinda, East Kalimantan, on the Indonesian half of Borneo.

The ship, carrying around 18 tons of cargo, radioed that it was "hit by a storm" before it went down, said Nurwahida, a port official.

RP president orders anti-drug prosecutors to go on leave

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine state prosecutors accused of taking bribes to drop drugs trafficking charges against three young men must go on indefinite leave, the president said Sunday.

Congress has been conducting a nationally televised investigation into allegations suggesting Department of Justice prosecutors accepted bribes to dismiss the charges against three men from wealthy families. Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency officials received a tip off about the alleged bribe-taking by text message.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo on Sunday ordered the prosecutors involved to go on leave.

"I am a mother who is bothered by an alleged conspiracy to let loose on our streets anew pushers of illegal drugs," Arroyo said in a statement. "What if they lurk on my street?"

"We should not allow a breach in our determined war against the menace of illegal drugs," she said.

The five prosecutors who handled the case have strongly denied any wrongdoing, saying they recommended the case's dismissal because anti-narcotics agents committed technical blunders when they arrested the three men in September.

World

WORLD BRIEFS

Lawmakers, Muslims criticize prince over comments

LONDON (AP)—Lawmakers, Muslim groups and the Pakistani public criticized Prince Harry on Sunday after a British newspaper published video footage of him using offensive and racist language. Harry, third in line to the British throne and an army lieutenant, issued an apology on Saturday after the News of The World reported that he had used offensive terms to refer to people from Pakistan and people of Arab descent. Britain's opposition Conservative Party leader, David Cameron, said Harry's comments undermined work to root out racism from the country's armed forces. "It is obviously a completely unacceptable thing to say," Cameron told the BBC. The paper reported that Harry made the remarks in 2006 during a visit to Cyprus to carry out training exercises with fellow military cadets. In part of the video apparently filmed by Harry himself, he refers to one colleague as "our little paki friend"—using a derogatory term for people of Pakistani origin. Iftikhar Raja told the BBC the cadet was his nephew Ahmed Raza Khan, who he said is now a captain in Pakistan's army. He said Khan graduated from the Sandhurst military school in 2006 and received an award from Queen Elizabeth II as the best overseas officer cadet.

Turkey coup plot arrests now at more than 100

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)—A Turkish court formally arrested 14 more people Sunday for ties to an alleged secularist plot by ultranationalists to bring down the Islamic-rooted government, bringing the total of people involved in the case to more than 100. The prime minister said the crackdown will shed light on a network of renegade agents within the state and make Turkey transparent. Critics say it is designed to silence the government's opponents. The case highlights a difficult question about who holds the levers of power in a nation where tensions between secularists and Islamists, and liberals and rightists, have created deep fault lines in the country. The problem is aggravated by key demands from the European Union—which Turkey hopes to join—to reduce the military's influence in politics, make security officials accountable for torture and grant more rights to the country's Kurds. Over the weekend, an Istanbul anti-terror court formally arrested and jailed 18 coup plot suspects, including a former police chief and four active duty military officers. Fourteen of the 18 were arrested Sunday.

Israeli forces advance deep into Gaza urban areas

AP

Palestinian youths inspect the rubble of a mosque and Islamic school after it was destroyed in an Israeli missile strike in Rafah, southern Gaza Strip, Sunday, Jan. 11, 2009.

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—Israeli ground forces made their deepest foray yet Sunday into Gaza's most populated area, with tanks rolling into residential neighborhoods and infantry fighting urban warfare in streets and buildings with Hamas militants who kept up their rocketing of southern Israel.

An Israeli army spokeswoman said residential neighborhoods in Gaza are riddled with homemade bombs and booby traps, including mannequins placed at apartment entrances to simulate militants and rigged to explode if soldiers approach.

The army "is advancing more into urban areas," said the spokeswoman, Maj. Avital Leibovich. "Since the majority of the Hamas militants are pretty much in hiding in those places, mainly urban places, then we operate in those areas."

Late Sunday, dense plumes of smoke from explosions rose over Gaza City and heavy gunfire was heard just south of the city. Early Monday, Israeli navy gunboats fired more than 25 shells at Gaza City, setting fires and shaking office buildings, including the local bureau of The Associated Press. The military said that in general, the targets are Hamas installations but had no immediate information about the shelling that began just after midnight.

Gaza medical officials say at least 870 Palestinians, about half of them civilians, have been killed in the conflict that began Dec. 27 with Israeli airstrikes on Hamas buildings, as well as suspected rocket launch sites and smuggling tunnels on the Egyptian border. Thirteen Israelis, including 10 soldiers, have died.

German and British envoys pressed efforts to negotiate an end to the war even though Israel and Hamas have ignored a U.N. Security Council resolution calling for an immediate and durable cease-fire.

Outgoing Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said Israel had made progress in its objectives in the Gaza offensive but was not finished yet.

"Israel is nearing the goals that it set for itself," Olmert said. "However, further patience, determination and effort are necessary in order to achieve those goals in a way that will change the security reality in the south."

While Olmert's comment signaled no immediate end to the offensive, it indicated that Israel is wary of an open-ended conflict with an unclear agenda. Israel wants to end years of rocket attacks by Hamas on its southern population, a complex goal that could require Egyptian or international help in shutting off routes to smuggle weapons into Gaza from Egypt.

Hamas, in turn, demands that Israel open Gaza's blockaded borders as part of any halt to the fighting. Such a measure would relieve economic pressure on the destitute territory but also strengthen Hamas's control of Gaza, an odious prospect for Israelis.

In Cairo, Egypt's state-owned news agency reported progress in truce talks with Hamas, but provided no specifics. The Middle East News Agency quoted an unnamed Egyptian official as saying talks between the nation's intelligence chief, Omar Suleiman, and Hamas envoys were "positive."

Rights group: Israel uses white phosphorus in Gaza

JERUSALEM (AP)—Human Rights Watch said Sunday that Israel's military has fired artillery shells with the incendiary agent white phosphorus into Gaza and a doctor there said the chemical was suspected in the case of 10 burn victims who had skin peeling off their faces and bodies.

Researchers in Israel from the rights group witnessed hours of artillery bombardments that sent trails of burning smoke indicating white phosphorus over the Jebaliya refugee camp in northern Gaza. But they could not confirm injuries on the ground because they have been barred from entering the territory.

The chief doctor at Nasser Hospital in southern Gaza said he treated several victims there with serious burns that might have been caused by phosphorus. He said, however, that he did not have the resources or expertise to say with certainty what caused the injuries.

The substance can cause serious burns if it touches the skin and can spark fires on the ground, the rights group said in a written statement calling on Israel not to use it in crowded areas of Gaza.

Military spokeswoman Maj. Avital Leibovich refused to comment directly on whether Israel was using phosphorus, but said the army was "using its munitions in accordance with international law." Israel used white phosphorus in its 34-day war with Hezbollah in Lebanon in 2006. The U.S. military in Iraq used the incendiary during a November 2004 operation against insurgents in the city of Fallujah.

An AP photographer and a TV crew based in Gaza visited Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis on Sunday and recorded images of several burn patients.

One of them, Haitham Tahseen, recalled sitting outside his home with his family in the morning when something exploded above them.

Somali pirate's body washes ashore with $153,000 cash

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—The body of a Somali pirate who drowned just after receiving a huge ransom washed onshore with $153,000 in cash, a resident said Sunday, as the spokesman for another group of pirates promised to soon free a Ukrainian arms ship.

Five pirates drowned Friday when their small boat capsized after they received a reported $3 million ransom for releasing a Saudi oil tanker. Local resident Omar Abdi Hassan said one of the bodies had been found on a beach near the coastal town of Haradhere and relatives were searching for the other four.

"One of them was discovered and they are still looking for the other ones. He had $153,000 in a plastic bag in his pocket," he said Sunday.

The U.S. navy released photos of a parachute dropping a package onto the deck of the Sirius Star, and said the package was likely to be the ransom delivery.

But five of the dozens of pirates who had hijacked the tanker drowned when their small boat capsized as they returned to shore in rough weather. Three other pirates survived but also lost their share of the ransom.

Graeme Gibbon Brooks, managing director of the British company Dryad Maritime Intelligence Service Ltd, said the incident was unlikely to deter attacks.

Russia declares gas monitoring deal void

SUDZHA GAS METERING STATION, Russia (AP)—Teams of EU monitors deployed Sunday at natural gas transit sites along Ukraine's vast pipeline network, but still no gas flowed to a freezing Europe.

Russia refused to restart gas supplies that have been stalled since Wednesday, saying the deal for the monitors was made void by Ukraine, which signed the document but then issued what it called a "declaration" to accompany it.

The European Commission insisted the declaration could not change the agreement, but Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said the document was void unless Ukraine withdrew the declaration.

He denounced the Ukrainian move as a "mockery of a common sense and a violation of previously reached agreements."

Russia has demanded monitors to track the movement of gas across Ukraine before it will restart supplies to other European countries. Russia stopped supplying gas to Ukraine on Jan. 1 amid a price dispute and later stopped supplying countries beyond Ukraine because it claimed Kiev was siphoning off the gas.

Overdrive

2009 NISSAN ROGUE SL

A city ride that's rogue in name only

By WARREN BROWN
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NEW YORK—It is the automobile industry's most inappropriately named vehicle—the Nissan Rogue.

It is a moniker bespeaking wayward nature—excess horsepower, egregious fuel consumption, reckless speed.

But the Rogue I drove here and in upstate New York was something different. It was a compact crossover utility wagon that fit neatly into tight parking spaces. It maneuvered easily through urban traffic, and it nimbly climbed the narrow, winding mountain roads of the Hudson Highlands 90 minutes and another world from here.

I was so impressed with the way the 2009 Rogue SL transitioned between town and country that I was determined to give it another name, because there's nothing the least bit roguish about it.

I hereby suggest that this clever little urban runner, available with front-wheel or all-wheel-drive in either base "S" or upscale "SL" trim, be renamed the Nissan City. Failing that, something like the Nissan New York or Nissan Chicago would do.

Those proposed names speak more accurately to the beauty of the Rogue's function and utility in urban canyons, as well as to its obvious limitations on the open highway. Let me get to its shortcomings first.

On the highway, the Rogue is far less rogue than it is altar boy. Keep this mild-mannered wagon with the rascally name and the raspy 170-horsepower, four-cylinder engine out of the left lane. The highway's real rogues—and there are many, especially in this region of impatient speed demons—will run it ragged over there.

The Rogue's little engine serves nicely on city streets and country roads where it provides more than adequate acceleration and delivers decent fuel economy for a crossover-utility wagon—21 miles per gallon in the city and nearly 27 mpg on the highway, running on recommended regular unleaded gasoline.

On the interstate, the Rogue is a wimp with a continuously variable automatic transmission—a pulley system with no fixed gear ratios—struggling to transfer power to drive wheels at highway speeds. What kind of rogue is that?

Genetics helps to explain the conundrum. In another life, when automotive marketers and their bosses were not afraid of the term "station wagon," the Rogue would have been, well, a little station wagon. In fact, it would have been a station wagon based on the compact Nissan Sentra sedan, with which it shares a platform and many components.

Put another way, the Rogue is a complete marketing exercise that in another life would have been a compact Nissan Sentra station wagon. That explains its urban confidence and utility and its slow, but steady comfort on mountain roads when equipped with all-wheel-drive, as was the case this week.

So, here's urging Nissan to reconsider the Rogue's name. It's stupid. Worse, it's misleading. The road's real rogues know better. And they know this little wagon with the phony hot-rod name is masquerading as a sport-utility vehicle.

Please, Nissan, do the right thing for this one. Give it a name that speaks to its soul. Rename it the "City."

THE WASHINGTON POST

The 2009 Nissan Rogue SL is a clever little urban runner, available with front-wheel or all-wheel-drive, not the trumped-up sport-utility vehicle that its name implies.

NUTS & BOLTS

By WARREN BROWN
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

COMPLAINT
This is a mild-mannered, city/suburban commuter vehicle. Anyone thinking that it will in any way demonstrate the hot highway performance implied by its name will be sorely disappointed.

RIDE, ACCELERATION AND HANDLING
It gets excellent marks in city/country driving, and is a decent-to-marginal performer in high-speed highway traffic.

HEAD-TURNING QUOTIENT
Cute, friendly, likable.

BODY STYLE/LAYOUT
The Rogue is a compact, front-engine crossover-utility wagon designed with sport-utility vehicle pretensions. It is based on a compact Nissan Sentra sedan platform and is available with front-wheel-drive or all-wheel-drive. It can be had in base "S" trim with standard 16-inch diameter wheels or the upscale "SL" with leather-covered seats and optional 17-inch diameter wheels.

ENGINE/TRANSMISSION
It comes with a standard 2.5-liter, 16-valve inline four-cylinder engine that develops 170 horsepower at 6,000 revolutions per minute and 175 foot-pounds of torque at 4,400 revolutions per minute. The engine is mated to an automatic continuously variable transmission.

CAPACITIES
There are seats for five people. Luggage capacity with rear seats up is 28.9 cubic feet, 58 cubic feet with rear seats down. The tested all-wheel-drive model has a maximum payload of 1,053 pounds. It can be equipped to tow up to 1,500 pounds. Fuel capacity is 15.9 gallons of recommended regular unleaded gasoline.

MILEAGE
I got 27 miles per gallon on the highway — one mile better than the federal government's highway rating of 26 mpg. City mileage, affected by congestion, was two mpg less than the federal rating of 21 mpg.

SAFETY
Ventilated front and rear disc brakes with antilock control, side and head air bags, and electronic stability and traction control are standard.

PRICE
The base price of the Nissan Rogue SL with all-wheel-drive is $23,010. Dealer's invoice price on that model is $21,450. Price as tested is $27,970, including $4,180 in options (premium sound system, satellite radio, MP3 player and iPod hookup capability, leather-covered seats, 17-inch diameter wheels) and a $780 destination charge. Dealer's price as tested is $25,857. Prices are sourced from Nissan and Edmunds.com.

PURSE-STRINGS
This is another good urban wagon. Compare with the Chevrolet Equinox, Ford Escape, Honda CR-V, Hyundai Santa Fe, Toyota Rav4 and Volkswagen Tiguan.

Ford plans to sell electric car by 2011

DETROIT (AP)—Ford Motor Co. is planning to put a fully electric car in showrooms by 2011 that will get up to 100 miles on a single charge and plans to offer plug-in versions of its gas-electric hybrid vehicles a year later.

Ford announced its strategy for electric vehicles Sunday at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, offering a broad description of plans for both hybrid and purely electric-powered vehicles.

Executive Chairman Bill Ford Jr. said the company is working on four high-mileage battery-electric vehicles to be introduced in the coming years.

Ford said the company's electrification strategy is "perfectly aligned with our nation's growing interest in advanced technologies that can help reduce our usage of gasoline."

The Dearborn-based automaker said it also plans to have a battery-powered commercial van on the market in 2010.

"We're employing a comprehensive approach to electrification that will tackle commercial issues such as batteries, standards and infrastructure," Bill Ford said.

In an effort to make electric vehicles appeal to a mass market, Ford said the company is teaming up with utility companies in California, and local governments in Colorado and China to develop projects that can help fuel usage of plug-in, eco-friendly vehicles.

Derrick Kuzak, Ford's group vice president of global product development, said the automaker expects to start out selling 5,000 to 10,000 electric vehicles annually.

Ford also plans to bring its European Fiesta subcompact car to the U.S. next year and is looking to drum up excitement for the vehicle by letting selected people test drive the car this summer and share their experiences on social networking Web sites.

Toyota to roll out safety, driver assist services

NEW YORK (AP)—Toyota said that it plans to roll out new safety and driver-assist programs on certain Toyota and Lexus models beginning late this summer.

That marks the first major competition for Detroit-based General Motors' OnStar service since it started up 12 years ago.

The Japan-based automaker said both the Toyota and Lexus versions will offer safety systems, while the Lexus version also includes driver convenience features such as directions to nearby destinations and a voice command program that can be used to control everything from the vehicle's satellite radio to its climate control system.

Jon Bucci, vice president of advance technology for Toyota Motor Sales, said the new telematics programs are the product of the automaker's previous experience in Japan and years of work to develop its own proprietary technology for the United States.

"We think this is a vital link to our customers," Bucci said. "It's part of nurturing the relationship with our customers and finding where the value of the brand can be increased and grown in different ways."

With the launch, Toyota enters a market long dominated by OnStar, which currently has about 5.7 million subscribers. BMW and Mercedes also offer similar services, but not on the scale of OnStar.

"It's not a surprise," OnStar President Chet Huber said of Toyota's announcement. "Frankly, if there was a surprise it's: What's taken so long for those folks to get their technology to get to the point where they can launch some base services?"

Like OnStar's basic package, the safety systems for both Toyota and Lexus brand vehicles notifies a response center if the vehicle's air bag goes off, or if it's involved in a severe rear-end crash.

Both services also include GPS tracking to find the vehicle if it's stolen and a special button that can be used to call for help in case of an emergency, or contact roadside assistance if the vehicle breaks down.

That's where the similarities end. The basic OnStar system also includes hands-free calling, a diagnostic system that checks vehicle systems and a remote door unlocking system.

An upgraded package also includes turn-by-turn directions and information about nearby services such as gas stations and restaurants. About 25 percent of OnStar customers opt for the upgraded services, Huber said.

Huber said that in the years since OnStar was first introduced, it's continued to add services, and as a result, customers. He pointed to new technology that allows call center operators to determine how bad a crash may be and an upcoming version that will allow OnStar to remotely slow a stolen vehicle to a stop.

Life & Style

AP

Members of the cast and crew of "Slumdog Millionaire" arrive at the 66th Annual Golden Globe Awards on Sunday, Jan. 11, 2009, in Beverly Hills, Calif. From left are, Producer Christian Colson, actor Dev Patel, actor Anil Kapoor, actress Freida Pinto,director Danny Boyl,composer A.R. Rahman and writer Simon Beaufoy.

'Slumdog Millionaire' picks up four awards at Golden Globes

By DAVID GERMAIN
AP MOVIE WRITER

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—"Slumdog Millionaire" lived up to its underdog theme at Sunday's Golden Globes, sweeping all four of its categories, including best drama and director for Danny Boyle.

Kate Winslet won two Globes all on her own, best dramatic actress for "Revolutionary Road" and supporting actress for "The Reader." "The Wrestler" also had two, dramatic actor for Mickey Rourke and best song

See SLUMDOG on next page

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

IN REMEMBRANCE

ANDREW MANUEL JOSE PANGELINAN

"MAMO"
July 14, 1987 – January 3, 2009

At 21 years, Andrew is now resting peacefully with His Creator and is reunited with his:

Maternal grandfather: Nestor Jose, Sr.;
Paternal grandparents: Joaquin Buenaventura and Magdalena Diaz Deleon Guerrero Pangelinan;
Aunt: Evelyn Jose; and
Cousin: Sgt. Brian Steven Leon Guerrero.

Although he will be missed dearly, fond memories of Andrew will forever be instilled in the hearts of his:

Parents: Gonzalo Deleon Guerrero and Priscilla Jose Pangelinan
Brother: Marvin Jose Pangelinan
Maternal grandmother: Julita Jose
Aunts & uncles: Edward DLG. Pangelinan & family; Pedro DLG. Pangelinan & family; Erminia P Leon Guerrero & family; Angelina P. Borja and family; Alejandro DLG. Matsumoto & family; Jose Jose; Manuel Jose & family; Rudolfo Jose & family; Nestor Jose, Jr. & family; Arnaldo Jose & family; Criselda Jose & family; Jovito Jose & family; Edgardo Jose & family; Cherrilyn Jose & family; Raquelita Jose.

His talent for music will be missed by his music companions the "Burning Bush", "Kings and Dreams", and "Alana'ia" as well as leaving behind many aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews, nieces and close friends.

Masses of intentions are offered at San Vicente Church at 6:00 p.m. followed immediately with rosary.

Andrew will be with us for the last time on Wednesday, January 14, 2006. Andrew will leave Borja Funeral Home at 10:30 a.m. and his funeral cortege will proceed to Mount Carmel Cathedral. Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 3:00 p.m. followed immediately with interment at Mount Carmel Cemetery.

Thank you for your prayers, thoughts and words of comfort.

Gonzalo, Priscilla and Marvin Jose Pangelinan

BORJA FUNERAL HOME

Message of Appreciation

From the family of the late

†Ellen Ebreo Castro

We would like to extend our sincerest gratitude and appreciation to all our families and friends for your prayers and support in celebration of our beloved's new life with Christ.

Your presence and prayers at the daily Eucharistic Celebration and Holy Rosary have comforted us. We are forever grateful to Diana C. Pangelinan, our Techa, for leading us in prayer; Pale Ike, Pale Ryan, Pale Jojo, Pale Nonoy, Tan Ko and the clergy co-celebrants at the Mass of Christian Burial; Frank C. Cabrera and the Kristo Rai Choir; and each and every one of you for your generosity and contribution in one way or another.

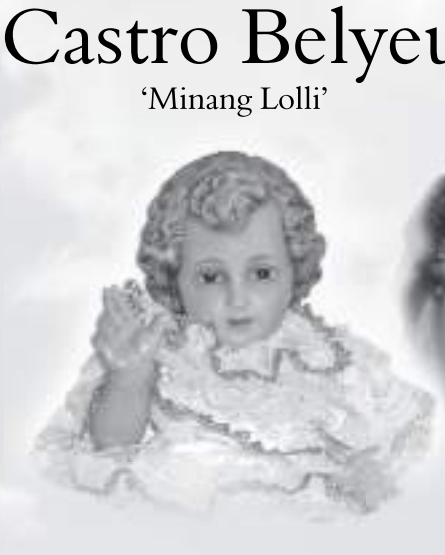
We are deeply touched for your unselfish assistance. Thank you and may God continue to bless you.

John I. Castro Jr., John Jason & Sonja, Jennifer, Jay Michael, Janice and Family.

Message of Appreciation

Fermina Castro Belyeu

'Minang Lolli'



Words cannot express our true feeling of appreciation to all who have reached out to us in any way. Your presence and prayers at the daily Eucharistic Celebration and rosary have comforted us as we mourn the loss of our beloved mother and grandmother. We will keep you in our hearts, thoughts, and most especially our prayers, and may God bless us all.

To all our family and friends who unselfishly offered their assistance, condolences and prayers, we are deeply touched.

Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase

From the Family

Spielberg receives Cecil B. DeMille Award

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Movie audiences have two train wrecks to thank for the epic visions of Steven Spielberg—a big one, and a little one.

Whether it's killer sharks, man-eating dinosaurs, or the horrors of Omaha Beach on D-Day, Spielberg said Sunday night it was all in some way inspired by a train wreck filmed by director Cecil B. DeMille for his movie, "The Greatest Show on Earth."

Spielberg accepted a lifetime achievement accolade that bears DeMille's name during the Golden Globes. His acceptance speech traced his own history in Hollywood, as many of those who he had directed helped heap on the thunderous applause.

He recounted how his father took him to see "Greatest Show" in 1952 and that afterward, the young Spielberg resolved to recreate the epic crash with his own model trains. Only after several warnings from his parents—and committing a crash to 8mm film—was Spielberg satisfied.

Now 62, Spielberg accepted the honor bestowed by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association after a highlight reel of his films, including "Jaws," "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," "Schindler's List" and clips from his "Indiana Jones" franchise.

"I'm feeling history tonight," Spielberg said, acknowledging his wife and looking out on an audience that included some of his film's stars, including Leonardo DiCaprio and Tom Hanks.

"I think what was on my mind when I was risking losing my Lionel train set was me thinking, 'Am I going to get away with this?' he recounted. "That anxiety has been haunting me throughout my entire movie career. Whenever I've tried to tell a risky story, whether it's about sharks or dinosaurs or about aliens or about history, I'll always be thinking, 'Am I going to get away with this?'"

The vast majority of times, he has. Certainly in the eyes of friend and fellow director Martin Scorsese, who introduced Spielberg.

"For 40 years he's been inventing and reinventing cinema with each new picture," Scorsese said.

The lavish praise was another reminder that this was a belated celebration for Hollywood. The DeMille award wasn't presented at last year's stripped-down Golden Globes press conference, which took the place of the glitzy show because of the writer's strike.

Spielberg, who often recreates history in his films, used the honor to reflect praise back on DeMille, the award's first recipient. It has since been given to a cast of Hollywood royalty, including Judy Garland, Bing Crosby, Anthony Hopkins, Sean Connery and fellow director Alfred Hitchcock.

Spielberg has won six Golden Globes and three Oscars, along with lifetime achievement honors from the Directors Guild of America, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the American Film Institute and the Kennedy Center.

While much of Spielberg's acceptance speech focused on history—his own and Hollywood's—he put a special context on his career while chatting backstage. He said clip montages of his films always make him think of family.

"Did I have kids then? How old were they? What grade were they in? All of these movies are like measurements in the road, having to do with my entire life."

for Bruce Springsteen.

"Golden Globes, or the GGs as we very affectionately refer to them—your mad, pulsating affection for our film is much appreciated. Really, deeply appreciated," Boyle said.

"Slumdog Millionaire" also won best screenplay and musical score, firming up its prospects for the Academy Awards. The film features a generally unknown cast in the story of an orphan boy in Mumbai who rises from terrible hardship to become a champ on India's version of "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire," all the while trying to reunite with a lost love from his childhood.

"We really weren't expecting to be here in America at all at one time, so it's just amazing to be here," said Simon Beaufoy, whose winning script was adapted from Vikas Swarup's novel "Q & A."

Winslet, who has previously been nominated five times without winning at both the Globes and Oscars, won for her role as a woman in a crumbling marriage in "Revolutionary Road" and as a former Nazi concentration camp guard in "The Reader."

"Revolutionary Road" was directed by Winslet's husband, Sam Mendes, and reunited her with her "Titanic" co-star Leonardo DiCaprio.

To DiCaprio, Winslet gushed: "I've loved you for 13 years and your performance in this film is nothing short of spectacular." To Mendes, she added: "Thank you for directing this film, babe, and thank you for killing us every single day and really enjoying us actually being in such horrific pain."

Woody Allen's Spanish romance "Vicky Cristina Barcelona" won for best musical or comedy film.

The three films that led the Globe field with five nominations each—"The Curious Case of Benjamin Button," "Doubt" and "Frost/Nixon"—all were shut out.

As expected, the late Heath Ledger earned the supporting-actor Globe for his diabolical turn as the Joker in the Batman blockbuster "The Dark Knight." The Globe win boosts Ledger's prospects for the supporting-actor honor at the Oscars, whose nominations come out Jan. 22, the one-year anniversary of the actor's death from an accidental overdose of prescription drugs.

The award was accepted by "The Dark Knight" director Christopher Nolan, who said he and his collaborators were buoyed by the enormous acclaim and acceptance the film and Ledger's performance have gained worldwide.

"All of us who worked with Heath on 'The Dark Knight' accept with an awful mixture of sadness but incredible pride," Nolan said. "After Heath passed, you saw a hole ripped in the future of cinema."

Only one actor has ever won a posthumous Oscar, best-actor recipient Peter Finch for 1976's "Network."

Rourke won for a role as a former wrestling star who gets a last chance at glory in the ring, a theme that mirrors the actor's life after he derailed his career with bad-boy behavior.

"It's been a very long road back for me," said Rourke, who poured out his thanks to "The Wrestler" director Darren Aronofsky.

WINNERS' LIST

Complete list of winners at Sunday's 66th annual Golden Globes held by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association in Beverly Hills, Calif.:

MOTION PICTURES:

- **Picture, Drama**: "Slumdog Millionaire."
- **Picture, Musical or Comedy**: "Vicky Christina Barcelona."
- **Actor, Drama**: Mickey Rourke, "The Wrestler."
- **Actress, Drama**: Kate Winslet, "Revolutionary Road."
- **Director**: Danny Boyle, "Slumdog Millionaire."
- **Actor, Musical or Comedy**: Colin Farrell, "In Bruges."
- **Actress, Musical or Comedy**: Sally Hawkins, "Happy-Go-Lucky."
- **Supporting Actor**: Heath Ledger, "The Dark Knight."
- **Supporting Actress**: Kate Winslet, "The Reader."
- **Foreign Language Film**: "Waltz With Bashir."
- **Animated Film**: "Wall-E."
- **Screenplay**: Simon Beaufoy, "Slumdog Millionaire."
- **Original Score**: A.R. Rahman, "Slumdog Millionaire."
- **Original Song**: "The Wrestler" (performed by Bruce Springsteen, written by Bruce Springsteen), "The Wrestler."

TELEVISION:

- **Series, Drama**: "Mad Men."
- **Actor, Drama**: Gabriel Byrne, "In Treatment."
- **Actress, Drama**: Anna Paquin, "True Blood."
- **Series, Musical or Comedy**: "30 Rock."
- **Actor, Musical or Comedy**: Alec Baldwin, "30 Rock."
- **Actress, Musical or Comedy**: Tina Fey, "30 Rock."
- **Miniseries or Movie**: "John Adams."
- **Actress, Miniseries or Movie**: Laura Linney, "John Adams."
- **Actor, Miniseries or Movie**: Paul Giammatti, "John Adams."
- **Supporting Actress, Series, Miniseries or Movie**: Laura Dern, "Recount."
- **Supporting Actor, Series, Miniseries or Movie**: Tom Wilkinson, "John Adams."

Cecil B. DeMille Award: Steven Spielberg.

Death and Funeral Announcement
In Loving Memory of
SUSANA CAMACHO MUNA MASGA
Better known as Chana-Ignacio
Born to Life on April 12, 1937.
Susana was called by her Creator on January 9, 2009.
In paradise, she will join her
Husband: Ignacio Concepcion Masga
Parents: Jose A. Muna, Concepcion Camacho Muna
Daughter: Mary Elizabeth Muna Masga
Parents-in-law: Pedro M. & Cecilia C. Masga
Sister & Brother-in-law: Efrain M. Reyes, Margarita M. lgitol
Son-in-law: Gregorio delos Reyes
Grandchild: Jonathan delos Reyes
Survived by Children, Spouse & Grand Children:
Cecilia M. & Hal Steinkopf (Joseph & Rachel, Lloyd & Beth, Tanya, Derick)
Antonio M. Masga (Charlene, Valerie, Jacob, Patrick, Taija, Clifford, Megan, Portia,)
Oscar M. & Maria B. Masga (Desiree, Andrew, Doreen, Oscar Jr., Darcy)
Melvin M. Masga (On Yun Li Masga) (Luisa & Angel, Tanishia, Lea, Nikko, Maya)
†Mary Elizabeth M. Masga (Sue Ellen & Michael, Harland, Michael, Jonathan, Abdul, Althea)
Diego M. & Tess M. Masga (Rachel Ann, Michelle Ann, John Diego)
Maggie M. Masga (Jasmine & Byron; Kisha, Alyssa, Colleen, Nathaniel, Caitlin)
Diana M. & Jose Sablan (Ryan & Carmen, Randall, Jodian)
George M. & Xiao Meng Masga (Kimberly, Brandon)
Brothers, Sisters & In-Law:
Jack C. Muna & Laura P. Sablan, Matilde M. & Amado Verdaguer, Pedro C. & Julie Muna, Efrain C. Muna & Margret T. Cabrera, Peter JL Igitol (†Margarita M. Igitol) Mathilde C. Igitol, Juan Cruz, Magdalena Villanueva/Juan, Michael Villanueva, Joseph Villanueva/Anuncia, Ignacio Villanueva/Angie
Susana also leaves behind and will be greatly missed by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews, nieces, grandchildren & great grandchildren.
Caretaker: Dominga Magbitang
Nightly Mass is being prayed at (6:00pm followed by the Rosary at St. Jude Church. Her body will leave boi-ja's Funeral Home on Satui"day, January 17, 2009 at 7'.30am, Atid will be escorted to Mt. Carrtiel Cathedral, Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at I 1:00ani and will follow immediately by Christian Burial at Tanapag Cemetery.
Your presence and prayers are appreciated.
The Children & Family of
Susana Camacho Muna Masga

Celebrities schmooze at the Golden Globes

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Tom Cruise must have gotten comfortable in that fat suit.

Cruise, nominated for a supporting actor Golden Globe for his nearly unrecognizable performance as fat, balding, foul-mouthed movie executive Les Grossman in the Ben Stiller comedy "Tropic Thunder," said he and Stiller are considering bringing the character back in some other format.

Cruise

"More is Les? I don't know. We'll see. We keep talking about maybe doing something for the Internet," Cruise said on the red carpet before Sunday's Golden Globes.

"We really haven't had a moment to talk about it thoroughly but it would be fun," Cruise added. "It's a fun character to play."

Recalling co-star Heath Ledger's tragic death still chokes up Maggie Gyllenhaal, even during the excitement of the Golden Globes.

"It's so hard to really feel how sad it is with the lights and the television and everybody screaming, but you know it's also very sad," Gyllenhaal, her voice choking, said on the red carpet before the Golden Globes.

Ledger, who died last January of an accidental drug overdose, won posthumous rave reviews for his performance as Batman's nemesis The Joker.

"Our movie I think is great, actually. But I think he elevated it to a completely different place," she said of Ledger's performance. "It's hard to be that good in a movie that big."

The role earned Ledger a Golden Globe nomination as best supporting actor.

"I hope that he wins. I think it's all right if he doesn't," Gyllenhaal said wistfully.

At the Golden Globes, it's not just about who wins but who gets to say hello.

The event is noted for being more a far more laid back affair than its big brother, the Oscars, and Sunday's 66th annual edition was no exception. So many people stopped Steven Spielberg to say hello that the director barely made it to his seat before the televised awards show's director started the cameras rolling.

With two minutes to show time, numerous nominees and awards presenters continued to mingle, ignoring the voice that came over the loudspeaker urging them to take their seats. Beyonce was escorted through the crowd to her seat by her publicist, Alan Nierob. Clint Eastwood stopped to shake hands with movie mogul Harvey Weinstein and Brad Pitt took Angelina Jolie by the hand and escorted her to their table.

Less than a month after abruptly leaving a hit Broadway show over health problems, Jeremy Piven showed up on the red carpet outside the Golden Globes alongside Mark Wahlberg.

Piven, who also plays Ari Gold on the HBO show "Entourage," left the critically acclaimed production of "Speed the Plow" last month. The show business trade paper Variety reported the 43-year-old actor had been suffering from high levels of mercury, which caused fatigue and other problems.

Piven spoke briefly with former football player Tiki Barber, who worked as a reporter during NBC's red carpet preview.

Piven likened his abrupt departure from the show to a team doctor telling Barber that he had to leave a game.

Barber joked that he often ignored such orders.

Wahlberg ran interference, saying a healthy Piven was needed for HBO's "Entourage," which Wahlberg executive produces.

Stars don't hold back on Golden Globe glamour

The Golden Globes are a party and the stars came dressed for it. Sunday night's red carpet in Beverly Hills, Calif., was full of both classic Hollywood glamour and up-and-coming fashion trends.

"I've never seen such a sophisticated Golden Globes. It's like it was the Oscars," said stylist Mary Alice Stephenson.

There were lots of hues of ocean blues, tropical shades and sandy neutrals, strapless corset-style gowns, one-shoulder numbers and a little glitz thrown in. The jewels—big chunky earrings and oversized necklaces—apparently are recession-proof.

Jennifer Lopez could have been a Globe statuette herself in her plunging V-neck, gold-bead gown by Marchesa. "Jennifer Lopez looks exactly like you want Jennifer Lopez to look," said Hal Rubenstein, fashion director at InStyle. Penelope Cruz went for a more subtle gold in a slim column gown by Giorgio Armani Prive with the occasional beaded horizontal stripe.

A blond Drew Barrymore channeled Marilyn Monroe with a pouffed-out hairdo and dove gray off-the-shoulder John Galliano for Dior gown. "She created a moment," observed Stephenson.

Kate Winslet wore a glamour-girl black Yves Saint Laurent strapless gown with a black velvet belt and a bow at her waist and a 47-carat, five-row bracelet by Chopard.

Angelina Jolie captured a bit of a boho vibe in a loose Versace tank gown, while Brad Pitt went a more traditional route with aviator sunglasses and a classic bow tie. "They rule the red carpet," said Lisa Rinna, TV Guide Channel's red-carpet host. "She looked easy, relaxed and beautiful."

Stephenson said Marisa Tomei's '70s-inspired white poet blouse and black skirt was "too sloppy and undone."

Rubenstein gave a thumbs-up to Freida Pinto's yellow strapless gown—a perfect complement to her complexion, he said—and to Eva Mendes and her "womanly, sexy" white strapless Dior with a fashion-forward gathering at the hip. Her Van Clef & Arpels turquoise-and-diamond necklace was a showstopper.

AP
Actress Drew Barrymore arrives at the 66th Annual Golden Globe Awards on Sunday, Jan. 11, 2009, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

The star piece of Debra Messing's outfit: 19th-century diamond-and-emerald drop earrings by Fred Leighton. Of her black halter dress, she said, "It picked me. It fits perfectly, and I feel unbelievably comfortable in it. It just made me feel pretty, and that's the bottom line, really."

An elegant Anne Hathaway was among the many stars dressed in blue. She wore an Armani Prive strapless gown with a crystal-studded bustier and skirt of layered gazar. Blake Lively was in a midnight-blue strapless satin gown with iridescent sequin embroidery by Nina Ricci.

Three made a trend for white: Kate Beckinsale in a J. Mendel sculptured strapless, Beyonce in a beaded Elie Saab with a high slit, and Miley Cyrus in an empire-waist Marchesa with peek-a-boo gold embroidery. Fans of red included Eva Longoria in a supersleek strapless gown by Reem Acra and Kyra Sedgwick in a corseted Oscar de la Renta.

Those wearing one-shoulder creations included Maggie Gyllenhaal in a subtle blue leopard print gown by Lanvin, Cameron Diaz in bright pink Chanel and Sandra Bullock in a cream Dior.

Demi Moore wore a peach Dior chiffon gown, while her daughter Rumer Willis, the official Miss Golden Globe, wore a rose-red strapless gown by Reem Acra that had an embroidered jeweled waist. Moore's husband, Ashton Kutcher, did the black-on-black combination also favored by Nick Jonas of the Jonas Brothers.

Aaron Eckhart jazzed up his Ermenegildo Zegna tuxedo with paisley accents. "I don't have much style sense, but when I saw that, I thought it was pretty cool. ... Zegna has given me suits for films I have done and stuff, so I feel like we have a good relationship."

But a fashion black strike went to Sting, who forgot to shave, which made his oversized black coat look all the more unkempt.

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Unborn
Friday 4:25 7:20 9:50
Saturday 1:30 4:25 7:20 9:50
Sunday 1:30 4:25 7:20
Mon and Tues 4:25 7:20
Gary Oldman, Odette Yustman
Thriller, Supernatural • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
Casey Beldon hated her mother for abandoning her as a child. But when inexplicable events begin to happen, Casey begins to understand why she left. Plagued by merciless dreams and a tortured ghost that haunts her waking hours, she must turn to the only person, Rabbi Sendak, who can make it stop. With the help of Sendak, her best friend Romy and boyfriend Mark, Casey uncovers the source of a family curse dating back to Nazi Germany—a creature with the ability to inhabit anyone or anything that is getting stronger with each possession.

Bride Wars
Friday 4:15 7:30 9:30
Saturday 1:10 4:15 7:30 9:30
Sunday 1:10 4:15 7:30
Mon and Tues 4:15 7:30
Kate Hudson, Anne Hathaway
Romantic Comedy • Rated PG
Synopsis
Liv and Emma are best friends who since childhood have planned every detail of their respective weddings. At the top of their bridal "must have" list: a ceremony at New York's ultimate bridal destination, the Plaza Hotel. Now, at age 26, they're both about to get married; they're about to realize their dreams; and they're about to live happily ever after. Or maybe not. When a clerical error causes a clash in wedding dates—they're now to be married on the same date!—Liv, Emma and their lifelong friendship are put to the ultimate test.

Gran Torino
Friday 4:10 7:10 9:40
Saturday 1:15 4:10 7:10 9:40
Sunday 1:15 4:10 7:10
Mon and Tues 4:10 7:10
Clint Eastwood, Brian Haley
Action, Drama, Thriller • Rated PG R
Synopsis
Walt Kowalski is a widower, grumpy, tough-minded, borderline-hateful, unhappy old man who can't get along with either his kids or his neighbors, a Korean War veteran whose prize possession is a 1973 Gran Torino he keeps in cherry condition. When his neighbor Tao, a young Hmong teenager, tries to steal his Gran Torino, Kowalski sets out to reform the youth. Drawn against his will into the life of Tao's family, Kowalski is soon taking steps to protect them from the gangs that foul their neighborhood.

★ ★ ★

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button
Friday 4:00 7:00 10:00
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon and Tues 4:00 7:00
Brad Pitt, Cate Blanchett
Drama, Romance • Rated PG 13

Bedtime Stories
Friday 4:05 7:25 9:45
Saturday 1:20 4:05 7:25 9:45
Sunday 1:20 4:05 7:25
Mon and Tues 4:05 7:25
Adam Sandler, Keri Russell
Comedy, Adventure • Rated PG

Yes Man
Friday 4:20 7:05 9:35
Saturday 1:05 4:20 7:05 9:35
Sunday 1:05 4:20 7:05
Mon and Tues 4:20 7:05
Jim Carrey, Bradley Cooper
Comedy • Rated PG 13

Marley and Me
Friday 4:30 7:15 9:55
Saturday 1:25 4:30 7:15 9:55
Sunday 1:25 4:30 7:15
Mon and Tues 4:30 7:15
Owen Wilson, Jennifer Aniston
Comedy, Drama • Rated PG 13

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Eastwood's 'Gran Torino' tops box office

NEW YORK (AP)—Make my weekend. Clint Eastwood has had the best movie opening of his long and esteemed career. His "Gran Torino" revved up the winter box office with $29 million in ticket sales in its first weekend of wide release, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Eastwood

It's Eastwood's best opening ever, topping the $18 million his "Space Cowboys" made in 2000.

In what Eastwood, 78, has said may be his last starring performance, he plays a disgruntled war veteran who reluctantly comes to the aid of his neighbors.

The National Board of Review dubbed Eastwood's performance the best for an actor in 2008, and his song "Gran Torino" was nominated for a Golden Globe at Sunday's awards ceremony.

"Gran Torino," which Eastwood also directed, was previously in limited release for four weeks. It jumped from 84 theaters to 2,808 this weekend after boasting very high theater averages.

"At this stage of his career, I think it's remarkable," said Dan Fellman, head of distribution at Warner Bros., which released "Gran Torino." "There are a lot of younger people that can identify with him in a role like this that maybe haven't seen him a role like this since 'Dirty Harry.'"

Eastwood stole the box-office bouquet from Anne Hathaway and Kate Hudson. Their wedding comedy "Bride Wars," released by 20th Century Fox, came in second with $21.5 million. The horror film "The Unborn" from Universal Pictures followed with $21.1 million in its debut.

"Marley & Me," the Jennifer Aniston and Owen Wilson's family dog tale that topped the box office the last two weekends, fell to fourth with $11.4 million and a cumulative total of $124 million for the 20th Century Fox film.

While awards season was heating up, most of the major contenders had solid numbers, though mostly in limited release.

Paramount Vantage's "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button" took in $9.4 million in its third week of release, bringing its total closer to the century mark with $94 million.

Focus Features' "Milk," Paramount Vantage's "Revolutionary Road" and Fox Searchlight's "The Wrestler"—all with awards hopes at the Globes and beyond—were among the best performers in screen average. Each hopes to continue to build momentum as the Oscars near.

"Defiance," in its second week of limited release, led with a robust $33,000 screen average. "Defiance" stars Daniel Craig in the story of Jewish brothers who form a band of freedom fighters against the Nazis in Eastern Europe.

Fox Searchlight's underdog hit "Slumdog Millionaire" added $3.7 million to its total of $34 million.

The success of "Gran Torino" could boost Eastwood's awards chances. The film was largely overlooked by the Globes, but the Oscars have long supported Eastwood's directorial efforts and awarded his "Million Dollar Baby" best picture in 2005.

"This will raise its profile in a very profound way," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box-office tracker Media by Numbers. "Certainly 'Gran Torino' is in an excellent position. It's a textbook case of releasing a film in limited, nurturing it for about a month and unleashing it upon the world in a wide release and really capitalizing on that."

That audiences remain so eager to see Eastwood on the screen suggests to Fellman that he should rethink any acting retirement.

"Clint has said this is the last time he's going to be in front of the lens. I hope he reconsiders after this," Fellman said.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Media By Numbers LLC. Final figures will be released Monday.

1. "**Gran Torino,**" $29 million.
2. "**Bride Wars**," $21.5 million.
3. "**The Unborn**," $21.1 million.
4. "**Marley & Me**," $11.4 million.
5. "**The Curious Case of Benjamin Button**," $9.4 million.
6. "**Bedtime Stories**," $8.6 million.
7. "**Valkyrie**," $6.7 million.
8. "**Yes Man,**" $6.2 million.
9. "**Not Easily Broken**," $5.6 million.
10. "**Seven Pounds**," $3.9 million.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

MTV to broadcast Obama's 'Youth Inaugural Ball'

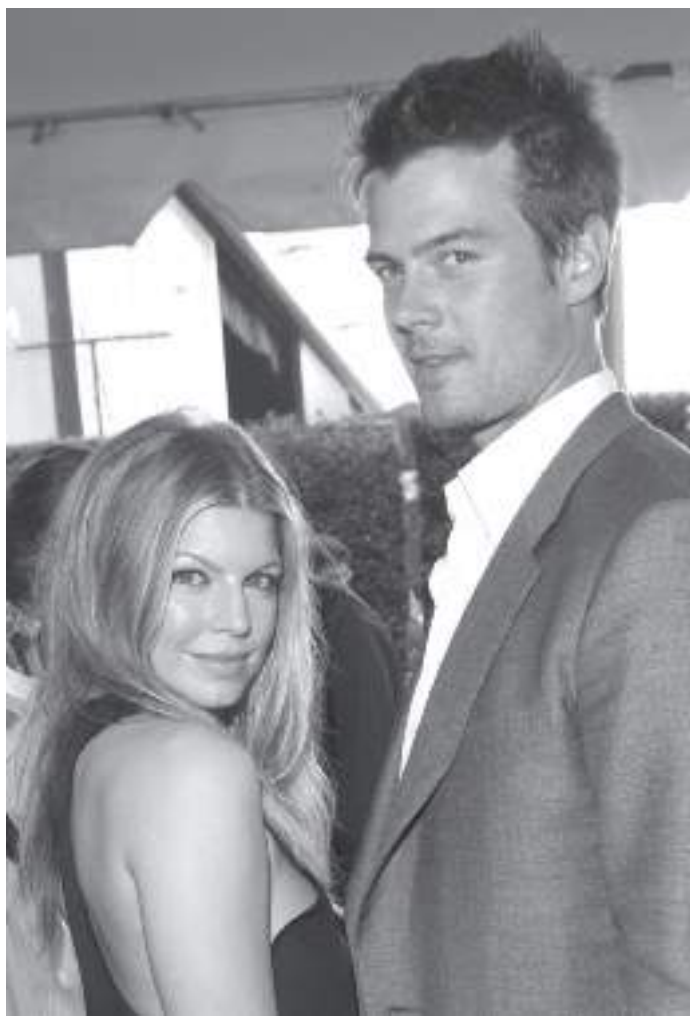
WASHINGTON (AP)—MTV will be broadcasting from President-elect Barack Obama's "Youth Inaugural Ball" on Jan. 20, the cable network announced Sunday. Obama is scheduled to speak at the event, one of 10 official inaugural balls. The Presidential Inaugural Committee has said the ball for people ages 18-35 will celebrate "the role young Americans can play to serve their communities." Tickets cost $75, half the price of most inaugural ball tickets. MTV said the program will also include performances by "top recording artists," although the inaugural committee has yet to announce them. The broadcast will also include "footage from service activities around the country on Martin Luther King Day, in addition to showing young people imparting change real-time through major service projects taking place in the United States and in Kenya," MTV said.

Randall, named Fender Stratocaster guitar, dies

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP)—Don Randall, the marketing dynamo who gave Fender's Stratocaster guitar its name and led the brand to onstage ubiquity, has died. He was 91. Randall died of age-related causes Dec. 23 at his home in Santa Ana, his son, Tim, told the Los Angeles Times. Randall's marketing savvy elevated electric guitar designer Leo Fender's instruments, played by such musicians as Ritchie Valens, Jimi Hendrix and Eric Clapton, into a hugely successful franchise during the brand's first two decades. Tom Wheeler, a former editor of Guitar Player magazine, said Randall changed the way the public viewed guitars and playing music, adding: "It's highly unlikely that Fender could have achieved anywhere near as worldwide success without Don Randall." Randall was born Oct. 30, 1917, in Kendrick, Idaho, and moved with his family to California when he was 10. He was managing an electric parts wholesaler in Santa Ana when he learned about the lap steel guitars and small amplifiers Fender was building in his small radio shop in nearby Fullerton. The two teamed up to form what is now the Scottsdale, Ariz.-based Fender Musical Instruments Corp.

French actor-director Claude Berri hospitalized

PARIS (AP)—French actor, director and producer Claude Berri has been hospitalized in serious condition. The Paris Hospital authority says 74-year-old Berri was hospitalized early Sunday at Pitie-Salpetriere Hospital and that his "neurological condition is very serious." Berri acted in films by Claude Chabrol and others, then moved to writing, directing and producing. He turned out movies like "Jean de Florette" in 1986, followed by "Manon des Sources," both adapted from Marcel Pagnol's vision of the French countryside. He directed the 1993 "Germinal," from Emile Zola's novel centered on 19th century mining life. Among Berri's other productions were Roman Polanski's "Tess" in 1979. Berri's 1965 short "Le Poulet" won an Oscar.


AP

In this Sunday, June 3, 2007 picture, Fergie and Josh Duhamel arrive at the MTV Movie Awards in Los Angeles, Calif.

Fergie and Josh Duhamel wed

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Dutchess is a bride. Her manager says Fergie and Josh Duhamel have been married.

Manager William Derella said by e-mail that the 33-year-old "Fergalicious" singer-actress, whose real name is Stacy Ferguson, and the 36-year-old "Transformers" actor were married Saturday at the Church Estates Vineyards in Malibu.

The pair had been dating since 2004 and were engaged in 2007.

The Black Eyed Peas singer launched her solo career in 2006 with the hit album "The Dutchess"—the title is a misspelled variation of the title formerly held by Sarah "Fergie" Ferguson, the Duchess of York.

Young workers must learn how to 'dress for success'

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: You're in a position to do young people a great service by educating a generation that has grown up in a casual-dress world that there's a line between how one dresses in one's personal life and how one dresses for work. Cross it, and it could negatively affect your career.

I work for a large multinational company, and I am often shocked at the way people dress. Although there are clear business/casual guidelines, these lines are crossed by men and women alike. Talks behind closed doors have no effect. Sending out the corporate dress code to the staff has yielded no change in behavior.

I finally consulted the HR department and came up with an approved solution. The dress code was again sent out to all employees in my department, with the warning that the next violation would mean being sent home and deducting the time as a vacation day.

Sure enough, "Disco Dolly" showed up in a sheer, low-cut, sleeveless blouse with a micro-mini skirt and strappy sandals. When I sent her home, she complained that she was saving her vacation days. I told her she had violated the company's dress code—again.

I also pointed out that her chances of promotion were now compromised thanks to the demonstration she had given that following simple instructions was beyond her capabilities. If you want to be regarded as a serious professional, dress like one! Some "suggestions":

1. DRESS FOR SUCCESS, not sex. Women should not dress like streetwalkers. Leave the sexy, short, filmy dresses, cleavage-baring blouses and spaghetti straps for your personal life. This is an office, not a cocktail party.

2. COVER UP. No sandals or designer flip-flops. We don't want to see your pedicure, your toe rings, the crust on your heels, or smell your feet.

3. MAKE IT FIT. Anything that hugs the body too tightly is not right for the office. We have a woman working here who looks like a sausage stuffed in a floral polyester casing. It's hard to take her seriously. The same goes for a man whose pants are so tight that you can tell his religion. Ditto for pants that are so loose and low-slung you can see his underwear or her thong.

4. DON'T POLLUTE. By this I mean go easy on the fragrance. Some people have breathing problems and allergies. Do not pollute the office with a scent that arrives 10 minutes before you do and lingers hours after you've gone. This applies to men as well as women.

5. BATHE. There seems to be a new "natural" cult popping up whose adherents believe that washing removes vital oils from the skin and should be avoided. This phenomenon is more often, but not always, a male habit. Anyone in close contact with others should bathe or shower DAILY.

TRYING TO RUN A BUSINESS IN FLORIDA

DEAR TRYING: I'm willing to wager that your letter will be posted on millions of bulletin boards in the business world. Your "suggestions" make good sense. While many companies allow employees to dress down on "casual Fridays," any business that wants the people it hires to be taken seriously should impress upon them that they must present themselves in a professional manner. Some companies do this in the form of an employee manual that lays it out in black and white. Because your directive was ignored, you were right to let "Disco Dolly" know there would be a penalty for noncompliance.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

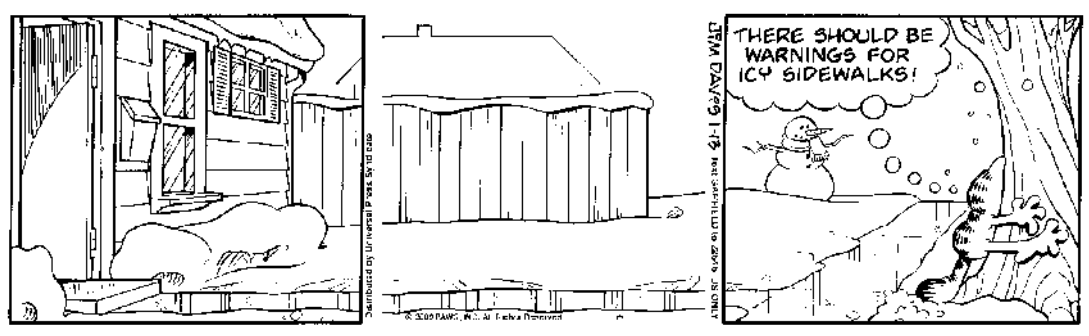
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

WILL YOU READ THIS TONIGHT?
"AN ODE TO TIGERS"?
HOBBES WROTE IT.
"THE ZEBRA'S STRIPES ARE LACKING HUES, SO THEY DON'T COMPARE TO YOU-KNOW-WHOSE."
"ORANGE, BLACK AND WHITE IS WHAT TO WEAR! IT'S HAUTE COUTURE FOR THOSE WHO DARE! IT'S CAMOUFLAGE, AND STYLISH, TOO! YES, TIGERS LOOK THE BEST. IT'S TRUE!"
THIS GOES ON?
FOR PAGES. PRETTY TEDIOUS, ISN'T IT?

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

WOW, DOC! THESE DENTAL POSTERS ON YOUR WALL ARE QUITE ALARMING!
THAT'S THEIR PURPOSE.
FOR EXAMPLE, THIS ONE SHOWS WHAT YOUR TEETH WOULD LOOK LIKE WITHOUT PROPER BRUSHING AND DIET.
AND THIS ONE SHOWS YOUR MOUTH IF YOU DON'T MAKE GOOD ON THAT BOUNCED CHECK FROM YOUR LAST VISIT.
HEY, WHY AM I STRIPPED DOWN?

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Help a lawbreaker
5 James Bond, e.g.
8 Pitch
12 Note to self
13 UN work agcy.
14 Top-rated
15 Hotel employee
16 Lefty
18 Do better at the box office
20 Thready streaks
21 Chat room chuckling
22 Suitable
23 Westminster, for one
26 Michigan city
30 Tavern
31 Carton
32 Wool provider
33 Louisiana tribe
36 Cell, perhaps
38 Glutton
39 Festive
40 Light bulb gas
43 Carpentry tool
47 Saskatchewan city
49 Hindu noble
50 Rim
51 Wapiti
52 Somewhere out there
53 Night light?
54 Plaything
55 Alluring

DOWN
1 Bullets, arrows, etc.
2 Suitor
3 Discharge
4 Walk unsteadily
5 Twine fiber
6 Turn the soil
7 Addressee
8 Papeete's island
9 "My bad"
10 Break suddenly
11 Stitches
17 Tiny branch
19 Trigger's rider
22 — modem
23 "Lost" network
24 Scrooge's cry
25 Family guy?
26 Spread seeds
27 Ultramodernist (Pref.)
28 Grain bristle
29 Teensy
31 Satchel
34 Selected
35 Color quality
36 Skillet
37 Problems that multiply
39 Maladroit
40 Prayer end
41 Took the train
42 Spirited and aggressive
43 Head light?
44 Secure
45 Trojan War hero
46 Cautious
48 Lustrous black

Solution time: 21 mins.

B	O	A	N	■	M	A	~	■	S	F	.	F
Y	A	_	E	■	A	G	A	■	I	L	I	E
E	T	A	L	■	D	E	M	A	N	D	E	S
S	H	R	E	W	D	■	E	M	B	O	S	S
■	■	■	T	R	C	Y	■	P	A	R	■	■
D	F	M	F	A	N	O	R	■	D	A	N	A
O	V	A	■	P	E	K	O	E	■	D	O	N
W	A	_	K	■	E	M	I	J	O	H	N	■
■	■	D	I	P	■	D	A	R	E	■	■	■
A	N	E	M	I	A	■	N	E	T	T	_	C
D	F	M	O	C	B	A	~	■	S	I	A	M
E	V	E	N	■	■	I	■	■	A	N	I	■
N	F	R	O	■	A	R	C	■	M	F	F	~

Yesterday's answer 1-13

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				■	16			17				
18				19			■	20				
■	■	■	21			■	22			■	■	■
23	24	25			■	26				27	28	29
30			■	■	31			■	■	32		
33			34	35			■	36	37			
■	■	■	38			■	39			■	■	■
40	41	42			■	43				44	45	46
47					48			■	49			
50				■	51				52			
53				■	54			■	55			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ or y.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Orlando Bloom, 32; Stephen Hendry, 40; Julia Louis-Dreyfus, 48; Richard Moll, 66

Happy Birthday: You must be strong this year, if you want to maintain your status quo. Unusual changes regarding work will take you on an adventure that, in the end, will have positive results. Keep your ideas and your plans on a small scale for now; there will be time to expand when the economy is better. Your numbers are 9, 13, 18, 28, 34, 39, 42

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't spare any expense when it comes to what you really want. You can budget elsewhere. You can make a great impression by doing a first-class job in both your personal and professional life. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Do things you enjoy instead of taking on what others request you to do. You will meet people who interest you and who make better friends and companions. Physical activity may not be your first choice but it will get you moving and stimulate your senses. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): It's time to reevaluate your situation and do something about it. If your relationships are dragging you down, discuss the problems you are experiencing and, if you do not get any cooperation, it is probably time to move on. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't be shy when there is so much to be done. A change at work will be to your benefit in the end, so don't make a fuss. Getting involved with someone unusual will give you a new lease on life. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Take care of responsibilities and you will be praised for your ability to get things done. Once you put your duties behind you, you can enjoy a pastime that will allow you to feel free and easy about your life and your future. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): A personal message can be sent if you are prompt and focused on getting what you want. Honesty and sincerity will be what count in the end. Love is in the picture and a social evening will pay off emotionally. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): If you mix business with pleasure or share your thoughts, you may be taken advantage of or used for someone else's benefit. Focus quietly on your work until you are in a position to take a piece of the action. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Be very secretive about your plans. If someone gets wind of what you are doing, he or she will steal your ideas and run with them. Protect your interests and your future. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You'll have to draw the line between thrill-seeking and experiencing a little adventure. Don't take a risk or you may end up in a very uncertain position. Travel can be interesting but is not necessary this time around. ✪✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't rely on what you are told. Dishonesty is prevalent. Do your own research and you will avoid an unsavory situation. It's best not to take on a partner if you can get a job done on your own. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Do not overdo it in any way. You'll be tempted to overspend, overindulge and make unrealistic promises. Back off before you let your emotions take over and lead you into difficult situations. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't get dragged into something you aren't ready to deal with yet. You don't want to be put in a position where you have to make a decision you are not prepared to make. Someone isn't likely to be honest with you. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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Birthday Baby: You are strong, steadfast and attracted to the unusual. You are compassionate and work for reform. You are a strong leader.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	2			8			4	
3			9	6	2			8
		7	1		4	6		
4		9				1		3
		8	3		6	5		
9			8	7	5			1
	7			4			3	

Difficulty Level ★★ 1/13

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	2	4	5	7	8	9	6	3
7	3	5	9	2	6	4	1	8
6	8	9	3	1	4	2	7	5
5	9	3	2	6	1	7	8	4
4	1	6	7	8	3	5	2	9
2	7	8	4	5	9	1	3	6
3	4	1	8	9	7	6	5	2
8	6	2	1	4	5	3	9	7
9	5	7	6	3	2	8	4	1

Difficulty Level ★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, over, backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

LA SCALA — Solution: 10 letters

A	D	S	E	R	E	B	M	E	C	E	D	G	A	R
A	M	R	P	L	N	R	Y	R	A	R	B	I	L	A
F	T	B	A	O	O	S	T	R	E	C	N	O	C	I
E	A	A	R	F	O	R	C	H	E	S	T	R	A	R
N	E	M	R	O	T	I	T	P	G	L	T	(L)	S	A
O	A	E	O	I	S	S	P	B	M	I	(L)	A	N	M
R	P	E	S	U	P	E	O	T	A	(A)	N	A	N	A
F	A	T	M	U	S	X	T	C	(H)	T	O	D	G	D
N	R	S	L	U	O	O	R	B	A	T	O	N	I	A
O	E	I	I	F	D	H	I	S	T	O	R	Y	E	M
R	P	G	F	N	A	C	A	D	E	M	Y	L	K	U
T	O	I	A	A	G	R	H	B	O	T	T	A	E	E
A	C	R	O	T	C	U	D	N	O	C	S	T	N	S
E	U	T	A	T	S	H	S	C	A	L	A	I	E	U
T	E	K	C	I	T	C	O	S	T	U	M	E	T	M

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Academy, Ambrose, Baton, Bella, Box office, Church, Concerts, Conductor, Costume, December, Drafts, Edgar, Famous, Fire, Gallery, Giuseppe, Hair, Hall, History, House, Italy, Library, Madama, Maria, Meet, Midnight, Milan, Museum, Music, Nerone, Norma, Opera, Orchestra, Perform, Prata, Role, Santa, Scala, Sets, Sing, Stand, Statue, Teatro, Teneke, Ticket, Turandot

Yesterday's Answer: Sapphire

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution:
A tight schedule

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

House for long term lease. Location: Capitol Hill, along Isa Drive. 3-Bedrooms, 2-1/2 Bath. Fenced all around with gates. Contact: e-mail: florebalecha@cox.net, Cell: (670) 788-6584.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, FF, AC, 24-hr pwr./water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. MIHA applicants accepted. Right behind NMC campus. Special rates for NMC faculty/students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

For rent–Apartment (2 Bedroom)
• Fully furnished, free cable & internet, 24 hrs. water (w/ hot water) • $400./mo. (located in San Vicente across Asin's Mini Mart)
• Call (670) 233-2211/235-5566 for info.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Apartment room for rent. 2 bedroom. Located in Koblerville. $210. Tel: # 288-0728. Yoon Won Suck.

2 bedroom apt., furnished, 24hrs. water supply, safe & quiet neighborhood. Located at Beach Rd., Garapan & Gualo Rai Vill. For inquiries: call 483-2729 or 234-5593

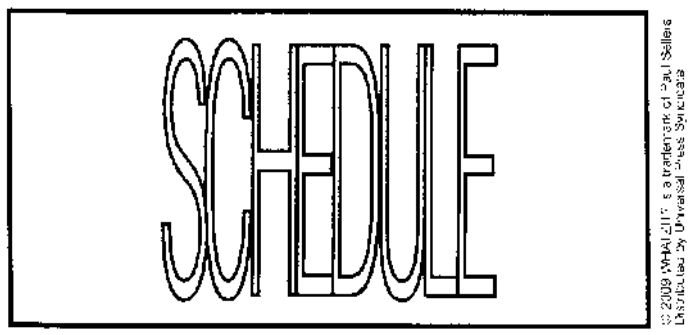
EMPLOYMENT

Sablan Enterprises, Inc. is looking for a MASON. Interested applicant may apply at 2nd Floor, VSS Plaza, Chalan Piao, Saipan, MP 96950

NEED PROPERTIES
We are looking for all kinds of properties, vacant property, commercial building, house, or apartment for long term lease or for sale. Interested owners, you may visit Yuta Office beside Bank of Guam in San Antonio.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



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Advertise your company
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The Saipan Tribune website averages 6, 994,897 hits and 204, 298 visits per month. That's an average of 225,641 hits and 6590 visits per day (average between Aug.-Oct. 2008).
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Starting at $56 per night*
Free wireless Internet
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CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Eagles beat Giants to reach NFC title game

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—Donovan McNabb made all the big plays that Eli Manning did not, and the Philadelphia Eagles eliminated the Super Bowl champion New York Giants 23-11 Sunday to reach the NFC title game for the fifth time in eight seasons.

McNabb made all the big plays that Manning did not, and the Eagles eliminated the New York Giants 23-11 Sunday to reach the NFC title game for the fifth time in eight seasons.

"He is the best quarterback in the NFL," Eagles coach Andy Reid praised his guy. "I don't think I have to say anything more than that."

Manning, meanwhile, never resembled the poised quarterback who won last year's Super Bowl MVP award with that one perfect spiral to Plaxico Burress.

Five times New York got inside the Eagles 20. The result? A mere three field goals.

"When we needed to get something done, get a spark to make a big play, that's when we didn't do our best," Manning said.

Credit Philadelphia's hard-hitting, ball-hawking defense, and maybe blame the wind gusts a bit. Either way, these NFL playoffs are now for the Birds—the underdog Eagles, Cardinals and Ravens all won on the road this weekend.

McNabb lunged for one touchdown, threw for another and converted several key third downs to move the sixth-seeded Eagles (11-6-1) into next Sunday's title game at Arizona (11-7). Philadelphia beat the Cardinals 48-20 on Thanksgiving night.

David Akers added three field goals—extending his NFL record to 18 straight in the postseason—to fend off the top-seeded Giants (12-5).

"I am very, very disappointed," Giants coach Tom Coughlin said. "I am sorry to see the season come to an end. There is remorse for opportunities lost."

The swirling winds played havoc with any ball in the air, and also helped skew the score: This was the first game in NFL history to finish 23-11, the Elias Sports Bureau said.

A year after road success fueled the Giants' route, the Eagles are taking the same path. They opened the postseason by winning at Minnesota and, after their sixth victory in seven tries, look nothing like a team that needed several breaks on the final day simply to make the playoffs.

Benched by Reid in late November for half a game, McNabb never has acknowledged that the slight hurt him. He has, however, seemed to play with a huge chip on his shoulder, to the Eagles' benefit.

McNabb converted a third-and-20 set up Akers' 34-yard kick for a 13-11 lead in the third quarter. On the first play of the fourth quarter, he made a perfect play-action fake for a 1-yard TD toss to Brent Celek.

"The players executed like crazy," Reid said. "They never wavered one bit. That's tough to find in this league."

Manning was in trouble from the start. His first pass wobbled out of his hand, got caught in the wind and missed a wide-open receiver.

Manning ended up 15-for-29 with two interceptions, often overthrowing his targets. The Giants did not score a touchdown and lost for the fourth time in five games.

"It all comes down to what you do in the playoffs. That makes your season a good one or a disappointment," Manning said. "This is a disappointment.

"We felt this was a special team that could go far. The defense played outstanding today and gave us opportunities. Offensively, we didn't do our job. We didn't score enough points."

By the final two minutes, more than half the crowd had left; Big Blue hasn't won a playoff game at Giants Stadium since 2000. Philly fans headed down the New Jersey Turnpike after another big win for their city—the Phillies won the World Series in October.

"In the locker room, there was so much energy in there. We were ready to play early in the week," McNabb said. "The city of Philadelphia is buzzing; this team is buzzing."

Three road teams won on the same weekend in the NFL playoffs for the first time since 1971. Also for the first time, none of the top three seeds in NFC made it to the conference championship.

With Arizona and Philadelphia advancing, it guaranteed the NFC will send a team with no more than nine wins in a full, regular season to the Super Bowl for the first time since the Los Angeles Rams in 1979. Those Rams lost to the Steelers.

The Eagles won for the second time this season at the Meadowlands, and were the only team to win on Giants' turf.

"Last year we were the road warriors. This year, I thought we would be the warriors at home. It just didn't come to pass," Coughlin said.

Overall, McNabb's stats were not overwhelming: 22-for-40 for 217 yards and two touchdowns. He also got called for intentional grounding in the end zone for a safety.

Yet on a day where the conditions weren't ideal, McNabb kept his composure.

Once Ahmad Bradshaw returned the opening kickoff 65 yards, little went right for the Giants. John Carney missed two of five field-goal tries, New York missed open-field tackles and the team did not demonstrate last season's resolve.

Then again, Coughlin's team has changed: Michael Strahan retired, Osi Umenyiora and Super Bowl hero David Tyree were injured, and Burress was suspended after accidentally shooting himself in the thigh. New York went 1-4 since that banishment.

AP

Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Donovan McNabb (5) lunges into the end zone for a touchdown against the New York Giants during the first quarter of an NFL divisional playoff football game on Sunday, Jan. 11, 2009, at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J.

Steelers 35, Chargers 24

At Pittsburgh, there is a home-field advantage in the NFL playoffs after all, and it belongs to the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Now they've got to prove it means something against the team they despise like no other, and in the game they lose at home like no one else.

The Steelers, owners of the NFL's best home-field record since the 1970 NFL merger, shook off a 7-0 deficit barely two minutes into the game, controlled pint-sized playmaker Darren Sproles and returned some normalcy to the postseason by beating the San Diego Chargers 35-24 in an AFC divisional game Sunday.

With a now-healthy Willie Parker running for 146 yards and two touchdowns, Ben Roethlisberger ignoring his late-season concussion to throw for a score and lead an efficient offense, the Steelers did what the favored Titans, Panthers and Giants couldn't do by winning at home. It was the first time since 1971 that three road teams won during a single playoff weekend, and the Steelers made certain that road teams didn't go 4-for-4.

"We talked about that, all the home teams—the No. 1 and 2 seeds—weren't playing as well," said Santonio Holmes, who got Pittsburgh going with a 67-yard punt return touchdown in the first quarter. "But we knew the road to the Super Bowl can run through Pittsburgh when we saw Baltimore won (at Tennessee). It was time to turn it on."

This will be the Steelers' seventh AFC title game, and sixth in Pittsburgh, in 15 seasons. They were 2-4 in the previous six, with an unprecedented four losses in five tries at home during the 1994-2004 seasons.

The Steelers had the worst offense of any playoff team coming in, only to put up 35 points to support the NFL's top-ranked defense. Now, it's time for Ravens vs. Steelers Part III next Sunday—the third and most intriguing matchup this season between the can't-stand-each other AFC North rivals.

"What else would you expect, us and the Ravens," Steelers coach Mike Tomlin said. "It would be big if it was a scrimmage. This is for the AFC championship."

Pittsburgh won the earlier two games, 23-20 in overtime in Pittsburgh—when the Ravens supposedly put bounties on several Steelers players—and 13-9 during the Dec. 14 rematch in Baltimore that secured the divisional title.

"We have a tough, tough, tough team coming in here," Brett Keisel said.

The Ravens-Steelers games were two of the NFL's most physical this season, with injuries all around, and playing to go to the Super Bowl will only ratchet up the intensity, physicality and, no doubt, the dislike.

There was much to like for the Steelers in this one as they made certain that the Chargers' stars from their 23-17 wild-card upset of the Colts didn't repeat their performances and allow San Diego to become the first team to go .500 during the season and then win twice in the postseason.

The Steelers spotted San Diego a 7-0 lead on Vincent Jackson's acrobatic 41-yard catch of Philip Rivers' pass four plays into the game, but, like San Diego's 7-0 lead in its bizarre 11-10 loss in Pittsburgh on Nov. 16, the Chargers couldn't make it stand up as 1,100-yard rusher LaDainian Tomlinson sat out with a groin injury.

Sproles, coming off his all-around 328-yard game against the Colts, wasn't much of a factor despite a 63-yard kickoff return and a 62-yard TD catch in the game's final two minutes after Pittsburgh had opened a 35-17 lead.

Sproles was held to 15 yards on 11 carries after rushing for 105 the week before and. He had 91 yards on five catches and 164 yards on five kickoff returns.

"I don't think he ever broke one (run). We contained him pretty good," the Steelers' LaMarr Woodley said.

Of course, it's tough to score when a team doesn't have the ball.

The Chargers had the ball for only 17 seconds of the third quarter to the Steelers' 14:43, thanks to a nearly eight-minute scoring drive that ended with Roethlisberger's 8-yard TD pass to Heath Miller. Rivers also threw an interception on a first down from the Pittsburgh 23, and a Steelers punt bounced off Eric Weddle's helmet, with Pittsburgh recovering.

"We were standing on the sideline and it was like, 'We were in for one play in the quarter and it was an interception,'" Rivers said. "There was a little bit of disbelief. ... You can't call it a fluke, those guys made plays, but that was crazy."

Given the 11-10 game, it's hardly unusual this game was ... well, a little unusual. The Steelers, one of the NFL's worst return teams, scored on their first punt return score since Holmes' 65-yarder against Carolina on Dec. 17, 2006.

After that, keeping Rivers and Sproles off the field so long allowed Pittsburgh to stretch its lead from 14-10 late in the second quarter on Parker's 3-yard run to 28-10 early in the fourth on Gary Russell's 1-yard run. Weddle was flagged for a 44-yard interference penalty before Russell scored.

Rivers went 21-of-35 for 308 yards and three touchdowns on a 25-degree day as snow flurries briefly coated the field—hey, this isn't southern California—but the Chargers failed to improve on one of the NFL's most curious records. They're 0-13 in Pittsburgh during the regular season, but previously were 2-0 there in the playoffs.

The Steelers weren't as dominant defensively as they were while holding eight teams to 10 or fewer points during the season, but they also weren't as rusty as the other three home teams this weekend and now are 13-4. The Chargers ended 9-9, following an unlikely five-game winning streak that came after they looked to be out of playoff contention at 4-8.

Roethlisberger, again looking like the can't-shake-me quarterback who led three road playoff wins in three weeks as the Steelers won the Super Bowl three years ago, converted three times on third down plays of 8 yards to go or longer ahead of his TD pass to Miller. He went 17-of-26 for 181 yards as the Steelers outgained the Chargers 342-290.

Ogilvy wins Tour's opener by six shots

KAPALUA, Hawaii (AP)—Paradise is no place to panic, although Geoff Ogilvy had reason Sunday at Kapalua.

Playing some of the best golf of his career, he took a six-shot lead into the final round of the season-opening Mercedes-Benz Championship. After eight holes, his lead was down to one over a hard-charging Anthony Kim.

"It's an uncomfortable feeling to know you're six shots out in front and you're almost back to tied," Ogilvy said after his wire-to-wire victory. "You can just imagine what people are thinking. It's not a very nice feeling."

What followed put everyone at ease, starting with Ogilvy.

He hit a 3-iron from 223 yards into 20 feet below the hole, then made the eagle putt to restore his margin. Just like that, Ogilvy had everything under control. He birdied five of the next six holes and sailed home to a 5-under 68 for a six-shot victory.

"Something made him mad, I guess, somewhere coming up on the ninth fairway," Davis Love III said. "And then I guess he made eagle and went nuts."

Ogilvy joined Ernie Els and Vijay Singh as the only wire-to-wire winners at Kapalua since the tournament moved here in 1999, having the outright lead over the final 58 holes.

"I enjoyed the last 2 1/2 hours more than I enjoyed the first two hours," Ogilvy said. "Once I got through nine, I really enjoyed every hole. I felt a lot better about everything."

Kim couldn't keep up, making only one birdie on the back nine until he finished with a 3-wood that stopped inches from the cup on the 18th for a tap-in eagle and a 67. He tied for second with Love, who birdied the 18th for a 67.

"I knew he was just teasing me for a little while there, and he was going to make some birdies," Kim said. "Unfortunately, I couldn't."

It was the fifth PGA Tour victory for Ogilvy, adding to his U.S. Open title in 2006 and a pair of World Golf Championships. He finished at 24-under 268, earned $1.12 million and moved up to No. 6 in the world.

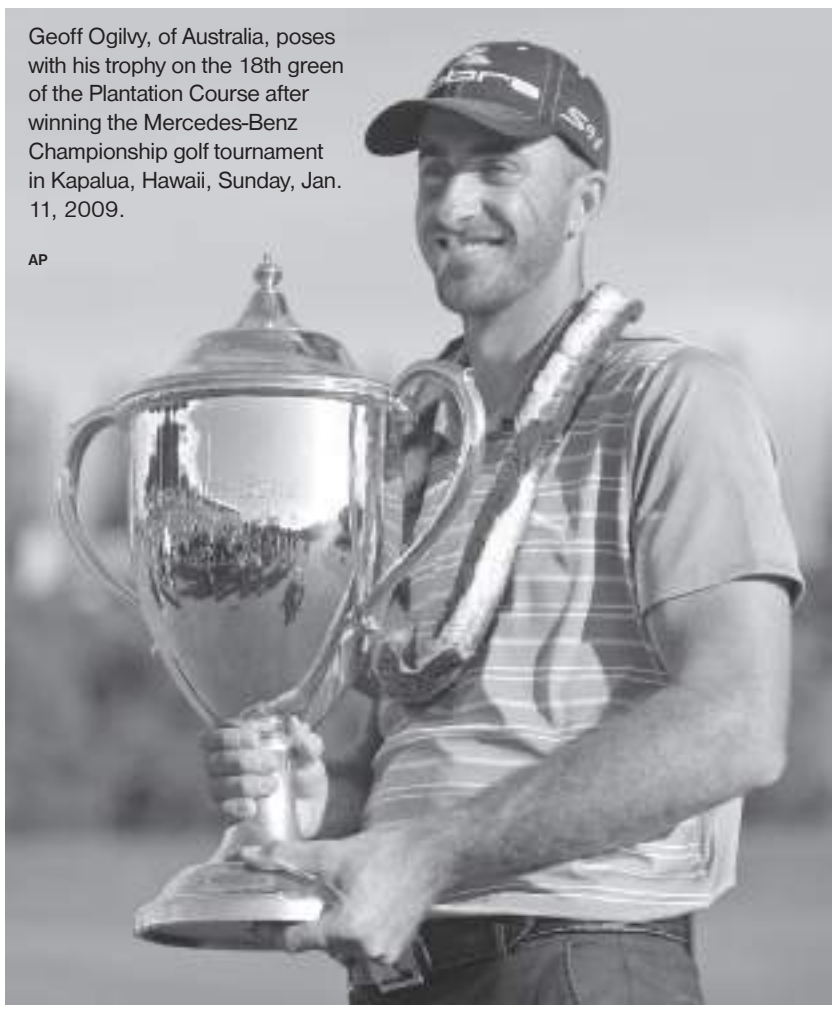
"When Geoff plays well, it never looks like he's going to hit a bad shot," Adam Scott said.

But there were a few too many on the front nine, which was no walk on the beach.

Ogilvy had made only one bogey in the first three rounds, but doubled that count after this first two holes Sunday.

With the Plantation course soft from overnight rain that lasted into the morning, Ogilvy missed the fairway to the right on the opening hole and couldn't reach the green, missing an 18-foot par putt. He found a bunker with his tee shot on the second hole, blasted out to about 6 feet and missed that putt.

Just like that, his lead was down to three shots over Kim, who birdied two of the opening three holes.



Geoff Ogilvy, of Australia, poses with his trophy on the 18th green of the Plantation Course after winning the Mercedes-Benz Championship golf tournament in Kapalua, Hawaii, Sunday, Jan. 11, 2009.

AP

And even after Ogilvy appeared to steady himself with an up-and-down birdie on the par-5 fifth, followed by another good pitch to 5 feet for birdie on the sixth, he was grinding.

He hit the wrong club on the seventh, came up short and took bogey. Then he missed his target some 20 yards to the right on the par-3 eighth and took another bogey.

"I've never had a six-shot lead before. It's a pretty uncomfortable feeling, to be honest with you," Ogilvy said. "I got to the green and saw I had a one-shot lead—I figured it was mostly gone—and it felt like a normal tournament again. I just told myself, 'It's a great spot to be after 63 holes, get on with it.'"

And he did.

After watching Kim made another birdie to go out in 32, Ogilvy hit 3-iron to the front edge of the green and rolled in the eagle putt. That put his lead back to three, and he didn't come close to dropping another shot the rest of the round.

"From then on, I was a different person," Ogilvy said. "I played almost the best I had all week the next six holes. It was the right time for a great shot, and I happened to make the putt, which was a big bonus."

Tebow gives the word: He's coming back

GAINESVILLE, Fla. (AP)—Tim Tebow started to walk off stage, then called an audible. The Florida quarterback turned around, grabbed the microphone and told teammates, coaches and fans exactly what they wanted to hear.

"Oh, by the way, let's do it again. I'm coming back," Tebow said.

Tebow thrilled more than 40,000 at the school's national championship celebration Sunday by announcing plans to return for his senior season, with hopes of leading the Gators to their first undefeated season and fourth national title.

"Overall, I just felt loyal to this place," Tebow said. "I feel like I'm a role model, and a lot of times people start things and don't finish them. I didn't want to be like that. I wanted to be loyal to the university. I wanted to finish what I started and play another year."

Tebow threw 32 touchdown passes in 2007, ran for 23 more scores and became the first sophomore to win the Heisman Trophy. He did less this season, but accomplished more by leading Florida to its second national title in three years.

Tebow completed 64 percent of his passes for 2,746 yards with 30 touchdowns and four interceptions. He also led the team in rushing for the second straight year, gaining 673 yards and scoring 12 touchdowns.

The 6-foot-3, 240-pound lefthander was 18-of-30 passing for 231 yards, with two and two interceptions in Thursday night's 24-14 victory against Oklahoma in the Bowl Championship Series title game. He also ran for 109 yards, most of it in the second half.

There was speculation he might head to the NFL, especially since he has talked about wanting a bigger platform to share his religious message and expand his community work, but Tebow said he never strongly considered leaving early.

Coach Urban Meyer set him up with several NFL coaches to talk about his pro prospects. Although Tebow said he got mixed feedback, nothing he heard swayed his decision.

"It was tough because some of that stuff is tempting at the next level and everything that goes along with it, especially ending on a great note ending with the national championship and moving on from there," Tebow said. "I love these guys and coach Meyer and this program too much and I feel we can still end on a bang next year."

The Gators had three seniors in the starting lineup against the Sooners, meaning just about everyone could return next season. Receiver Percy Harvin and linebacker Brandon Spikes, fellow juniors considering turning pro, didn't address their futures Sunday. The deadline for underclassmen to apply for the NFL draft is Thursday.

Meyer said assistant offensive line coach John Hevesy has decided to leave Florida for a job at Mississippi State. Offensive coordinator Steve Addazio also missed the celebration because he was in the hospital recovering from a knee infection.

Celtics beat Toronto, snap four-game losing streak

TORONTO (AP)—Ray Allen scored a season-high 36 points, including eight 3-pointers, as the Boston Celtics withstood a late Toronto rally to beat the Raptors 94-88 on Sunday, snapping a four-game losing streak.

Allen, who made a career-high 10 3-pointers against Charlotte on April 14, 2002, finished 8-for-10 from 3-point range on Sunday, making his first six attempts.

Rajon Rondo had 14 points and 11 assists and Kevin Garnett added 10 points and 11 rebounds. Paul Pierce had 11 points for Boston, which had lost seven of nine coming in.

Andrea Bargnani led Toronto with 17 points while Chris Bosh and Jamario Moon each had 15.

Magic 105, Spurs 98

At San Antonio, Dwight Howard scored 24 points and Jameer Nelson had eight of his 22 in the final two minutes as Orlando snapped San Antonio's four-game winning streak.

Hedo Turkoglu added 21 points for the Magic (30-8), who are tied with the Boston Celtics for the Eastern Conference lead in victories. Orlando has won four straight and 13 of 15 games.

The Magic were 14-of-22 from 3-point territory.

Tony Parker scored 31 points for the Spurs (24-12), but he missed a pair of layups in the final two minutes as San Antonio closed the game by missing six of seven shots.

Lakers 108, Heat 105

At Los Angeles, Andrew Bynum scored a season-high 24 points, including a go-ahead follow shot with 18.5 seconds remaining, as Los Angeles beat Miami to become the first Western Conference team to reach 30 victories.

Kobe Bryant added 19 points and seven assists, Pau Gasol had 14 points and 18 rebounds to match a career high, and Derek Fisher had 13 points and a season-high 11 assists for the Lakers (30-6), who won for the ninth time in 10 games.

Dwyane Wade led the Heat (19-17) with 27 points and nine assists, and rookie Michael Beasley scored 17 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter. Daequan Cook added 17 points, and Shawn Marion and Chris Quinn added 12 points apiece.

76ers 109, Hawks 94

At Atlanta, Andre Iguodala scored 27 points as Philadelphia took advantage of Al Horford's absence to dominate near the basket and beat Atlanta for its first four-game winning streak of the season.

The 76ers scored 56 points in the paint and had a combined 49 points by their starting forwards. Thaddeus Young added 22 points and nine rebounds as the Hawks struggled without Horford, the starting center who was held out with a knee injury.

The Hawks have lost four of five in January, including their first three-game losing streak since Dec. 6-10. Joe Johnson led Atlanta with 25 points and Mike Bibby had 22.

Suns 109, Clippers 103

At Los Angeles, Amare Stoudemire overcame early foul trouble to score 26 points, and Jason Richardson and Grant Hill each had 21 as Phoenix sent Los Angeles to its 11th straight loss.

Steve Nash had 14 points and 12 assists for the Suns, who blew a 15-point lead before moving a season-best eight games over .500. They have won five of their last six overall, including a 106-98 victory over the Clippers on Jan. 2 at Phoenix.

Shaquille O'Neal had 15 points and 10 rebounds, including a critical three-point play with 2:05 remaining.

Al Thornton had 23 points and eight rebounds for the Clippers, whose losing streak is their longest since a 13-game stretch late in the in 2003-04 season.

Kings 102, Mavericks 95

At Sacramento, California, Kevin Martin scored 21 points and Francisco Garcia had seven during a key fourth-quarter stretch as Sacramento ended its five-game losing streak by beating Dallas.

Beno Udrih had 16 points, five rebounds and six assists for Sacramento, which hadn't won since beating the Los Angeles Clippers 92-90 on Dec. 30. John Salmons and Brad Miller added 13 points apiece for the Kings in only their second win in the last 10 games against the Mavericks.

Jason Terry scored a season-high 33 points for Dallas, including 15 in the third quarter. Dirk Nowitzki added 15 points and eight rebounds for the Mavericks.

Warriors 120, Pacers 117

At Oakland, California, Jamal Crawford scored 32 points and hit the go-ahead 3-pointer with 11.3 seconds left as Golden State snapped its five-game losing streak with a thrilling victory over Indiana.

Danny Granger scored 15 of his career high-tying 42 points for Indiana in the fourth quarter, including a 3-pointer that put the Pacers up 117-116 with 23.8 seconds left in a wild final period that had 12 lead changes.

But after Crawford replied with his dramatic 3, Granger was a spectator as Mike Dunleavy and Travis Diener missed 3-pointers for Indiana in the final seconds.

Kelenna Azubuike added 21 points and eight rebounds for the Warriors, hitting a free throw with 5.6 seconds left as road-weary Golden State opened a seven-game homestand with its first victory since Dec. 29.

T.J. Ford scored 15 points and Jarrett Jack added 12 for the Pacers, who lost for the third time in four stops on their five-game West Coast road trip.

Manucdoc, Hamoy top USSP pool

Ed Manucdoc was the champion in USS Peleliu Club's first 8-ball tournament of the new year last Monday, while Chester Hamoy took Tuesday's 9-ball title.

Hamoy topped Ken Phillips, then eked out close 3-2 wins over Rolly Villanueva and Brian Melvis for first place. Phillips had eliminated Rommel Usi.

Villanueva began with a win over Annie Tesiro, then defeated Amor Zapata to move on. Zapata had beaten Taylor Watanabe.

Melvis beat Eric Mahinay and got a back-and-forth 3-2 victory over Ron Chisato. Chisato had won his match with Primo Rivera.

Manucdoc lost his first game to Watanabe in Monday's 8-ball tourney, then marched back through the losers' bracket with wins over John Mongami, Phillips and Watanabe. He took two games from Villanueva for the title.

Villanueva had sent Phillips and Watanabe to the losers' bracket.

Phillips bested Mongami in the winners' bracket before falling to Villanueva, got by Melvis and fell to Manucdoc.

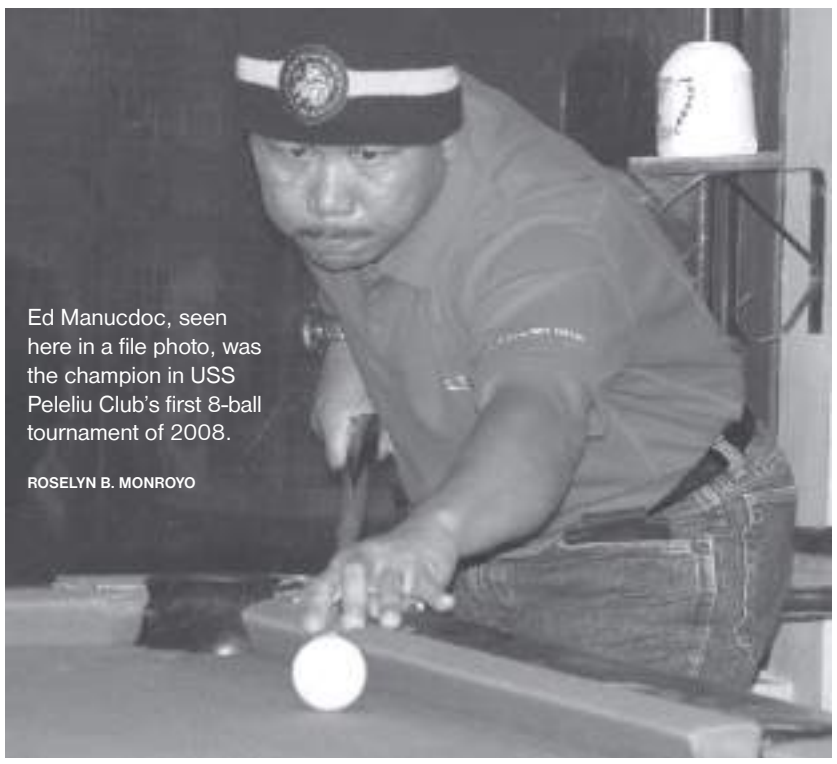
Watanabe defeated Melvis and Manucdoc, but couldn't get past Villanueva and a rematch with Manucdoc.

The previous week, Juancho Mendoza took the 8-ball money, while Melvis won in 9-ball. Mongami was second both nights.

There is a $5 entry fee for the Monday 8-ball tournaments, while Tuesday's 9-ball has a $10 entry. Both contests start at 8pm.

All drinks are at happy hour prices for the tournaments. "We're also dropping the price of a game from $1.50 to $1 for the new year," said Phillips.

For more information, please contact Rose or Ken Phillips at 233-1984. ***(USSP)***



Ed Manucdoc, seen here in a file photo, was the champion in USS Peleliu Club's first 8-ball tournament of 2008.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Softball meeting tonight

The CNMI Softball Association is calling on all members and officers to attend an important meeting today at 5:30pm at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Programs and tournaments for 2009 will be discussed at the meeting.

CNMISA also would like to remind teams that games in the fastpitch league are suspended until further notice. ***(PR)***

NMASA elects board members for 2009

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Nine individuals were elected to the 2009 NMASA Board during the first meeting of the year of the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association Thursday night at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Named to the NMASA Board were Jeff Race, Rose Igitol, Tony Rogolifoi, Elias Rangamar, Nick Swaim, Gabriel White, Michael A. White, Kurt Barnes, and Jess Wabol.

Michael A. White is NMASA's current president and is expected to call a meeting before the month ends to elect the new officers of the board.

Race represents Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association to the NMASA Board, while Rogolifoi and Igitol are both from Saipan Major League. Rangamar and Barnes are from Northern Marianas Athletics, Gabriel White from Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands, Swaim from Northern Mariana Islands Football Association, and Wabol of the Refaluwasch Golf Association.

Meanwhile, after the election of the NMASA board members, the association discussed preparations for the NMASA Annual Sports Banquet.

The proposed date for the affair is Feb. 19 with the venue to be named later.

The annual event will honor the top performers of 2008. This include the athletes of the month (from January to December) and the Coach of the Year.

From the athletes who claimed monthly plums, NMASA will pick the 2008 Male and Female Student Athletes of the Year and the Male and Female Athlete of the Year.

NMASA members will be given copies of the list of nominees for the top athletes of the year awards and selection are expected to be made in the group's next meeting in February.

ZACK

From Page 28

game, which Cruz convincingly won, 188-118.

The newly-crowned Prince topped the six-game roll-off, which determined the Top 4 bowlers to advance in the step-ladder finals.

Cruz knocked down a total of 1,112 pins for an average of 185.33 pinfalls. He recorded 180s in Games 1, 2, and 4 (183, 189, and 181), posted his lowest scored in Game 3 (155), but finished strong in the last two games tallying 195 in Game 5 and 209 in Game 6.

In second place was Zapanta, who won the roll-offs in February, March, May, June, July, August, October, November, and December.

Zapanta totaled 1,106 pinfalls in six games for an average of 184.33 pinfalls. He started strong with 221 and 224 pinfalls in Games 1 and 2, before slowing down in the last four games (177, 176, 114, and 194).

Yarobwemal claimed the No. 3 spot with her 946 pinfalls and average of 157.67 pinfalls. Her best game was in Game 5 posting 224 pinfalls.

Torres booked the last ticket to the step-ladder finals with his total of 931 pinfalls and average of 155.17. He started slow with 125 pinfalls in Game 1, found his form in Game 2 (179) and tallied 628 pinfalls in the last four games (139, 150, 162, 176).

Four other youth keglers competed in the six-game roll-off qualifier. The list include Marion McKenzie (905 pinfalls), Troy Verdaguer (795), Nikko Gutierrez (753), and Marcel McKenzie (670).

NMBF

From Page 28

Kim thanked NMBF members for having confidence in her ability to lead the group and vow to continue what the organization's past leaders have started to promote badminton in the Commonwealth.

"It's a great feeling. I am deeply honored and grateful that they showed full confidence in me. I felt that there's no turning back to lead the group this year," Kim said.

"I will continue the past leaders' goal of strengthening the youth membership in the CNMI," she said.

Kim added she will also continue to implement the "committee system," in the organization to ensure that future tournaments and other projects are properly coordinated and attended.

"It has been proven very effective and we will maintain that setup for the year," Kim said. "I am also looking forward to more tournaments and training for members, students, and community groups," she said.

Out to help Kim manage the organization are 2009 Board of Directors members Lito Mendoza, Elma Labuson, Roger Vales, Gigi Zapanta, Jerry Tan, and Susan and Puy Macario. Mendoza will chair the NMBF Board for the second straight year.

With Kim at the helm of NMBF affairs this year, her first project will be an annual leadership training and planning workshop to be held before the end of the month. The group is also expected to hold board and management meetings this month.

Meanwhile, NMBF thanked the Division of Sports and Recreation for allowing them to use the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium to conduct regular games every Tuesday and Thursday morning and Friday and Saturday evening.

DOLPHINS

From Page 28

Champ Untalan, Clayton Kenty, Noel Soria, Aemir Villegas, and Will Tomokane joining holdovers Heartim Williams and Ron Catap.

Southern are now without its starting five—Ernest Duenas, Manuel Ajoste, Lerio Pagarao, Mike Eclevia and Bill Babauta—who all graduated last season.

From last year's champion team, only five are left. The list includes Lawrence Echon, Brian Ajoste, Nathan Flores, Styner Beltau, and Oscar Masga. These are the guys who usually came of the bench last season, but are promoted to the starting five this year. The remaining seven players on coach Jesse Tudela's lineup are new recruits.

Despite having basically a new roster, the Rays took control of the first quarter of their game against the Dolphins, 16-4 and kept the driver's seat at halftime, 26-21.

MHS fell behind in the first half with Cruz and Rabauliman sitting on the bench.

Gross said team rules put the two members of the CNMI Junior National Teams on the bench in the first half. He did not elaborate which team rules the two starters violated.

Cruz made his presence felt at the start of the second half scoring eight of MHS' 20 points to give the Dolphins the lead, 41-38.

Cruz continued to make up for lost time, while Rabauliman did the same adding six more markers in the fourth quarter.

The backcourt tandem of Tudela and Ada also did wonders for the Dolphins in the second half, as the two walked away with easy layups en route to giving MHS an eight-point win.

Ada led all scorers with 18 points, while Cruz still finished in double figures with 12. Tudela and Rabauliman chipped in eight, and MHS had little problems on offense, as six other players made it into the scoreboard.

Southern had only six players scoring in its debut game with Ajoste leading the way with 13 points. Flores contributed 11, while Josh Kiyoshi added 10. Beltau had nine markers and rookie Vince Iglecias and Masga drilled six apiece.

MHS 63 – Ada 18, Cruz 12, Tudela 9, Rabauliman 8, Untalan 4, Catap 3, Kenty 3, Williams 2, Tomokane 2, Soria 2.

SSHS 55 – Ajoste 13, Flores 11, Kiyoshi 10, Beltau 9, Masga 6, Iglecias 6.

Scoring by quarters: 4-16, 21-26, 41-38, 63-55.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	30	9	.769	_
New Jersey	18	19	.486	11
Philadelphia	17	20	.459	12
Toronto	16	22	.421	13 1/2
New York	13	22	.371	15

Southeast Division

Orlando	30	8	.789	_
Atlanta	22	14	.611	7
Miami	19	17	.528	10
Charlotte	14	24	.368	16
Washington	7	29	.194	22

Central Division

Cleveland	29	6	.829	_
Detroit	22	13	.629	7
Milwaukee	18	21	.462	13
Chicago	16	21	.432	14
Indiana	13	24	.351	17

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	24	12	.667	_
New Orleans	22	11	.667	1/2
Houston	24	15	.615	1 1/2
Dallas	22	15	.595	2 1/2
Memphis	11	26	.297	13 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	25	13	.658	_
Portland	22	14	.611	2
Utah	22	15	.595	2 1/2
Minnesota	11	25	.306	13
Oklahoma City	6	32	.158	19

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	30	6	.833	_
Phoenix	21	13	.618	8
Golden State	11	28	.282	20 1/2
Sacramento	9	29	.237	22
L.A. Clippers	8	29	.216	22 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Boston 94, Toronto 88
Philadelphia 109, Atlanta 94
Phoenix 109, L.A. Clippers 103
Orlando 105, San Antonio 98
Sacramento 102, Dallas 95
Golden State 120, Indiana 117
L.A. Lakers 108, Miami 105

MERCEDES-BENZ CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

KAPALUA, Hawaii (AP)–Scores Sunday from the final round of the Mercedes-Benz Championship, a $5.6 million (Euro 4.1 million) U.S. PGA Tour event at the 7,411-yard, par-73 Plantation Course at Kapalua Resort:

FINAL ROUND

Geoff Ogilvy	67-68-65-68	268
Anthony Kim	71-68-68-67	274
Davis Love III	69-70-68-67	274
Sean O'Hair	69-70-71-65	275
Justin Leonard	74-67-65-70	276
Ernie Els	68-69-73-67	277
Zach Johnson	71-75-64-67	277
Kenny Perry	68-71-68-70	277
D.J. Trahan	70-66-70-71	277
Johnson Wagner	68-71-70-69	278
Dustin Johnson	72-72-68-67	279
Chez Reavie	75-70-68-67	280
Will MacKenzie	72-70-69-69	280
Camilo Villegas	74-67-66-73	280
K.J. Choi	71-71-66-73	281
Boo Weekley	70-70-69-72	281
Carl Pettersson	72-72-70-68	282
Brian Gay	72-70-70-71	283
Adam Scott	73-67-73-70	283
Ryuji Imada	69-70-74-70	283
Trevor Immelman	72-74-69-69	284
Richard S. Johnson	72-72-71-69	284
Cameron Beckman	76-73-66-70	285
Stewart Cink	74-67-71-74	286
Steve Lowery	69-75-70-72	286
Parker McLachlin	77-69-69-71	286
Daniel Chopra	79-69-67-72	287
Vijay Singh	73-73-71-70	287
Greg Kraft	72-73-68-75	288
J.B. Holmes	74-75-72-67	288
Ryan Palmer	78-75-72-66	291
Andres Romero	78-74-71-72	295
Marc Turnesa	79-73-70-74	296

By The Associated Press

2008 Traders Insurance Team Tournament

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Third placers the Gray Hawks Racquettes.

The Bad Masters receive their certificates of participation from tournament supporter Jerry Tan, third left.

The Blue Powers show their certificates of participation.

The Red Dragon Shuttlers with their certificate of participation. Joining them is Lito Mendoza, fourth from left, of tournament sponsor Traders Insurance.

Jerry Tan, fourth from left, joins the participants in the junior division.

The Green All-Stars pose with their trophies during the awards ceremony for the 2008 Traders Insurance Team Tournament at Club V.

Jerry Tan acknowledges officials and members of NMBF, which presented him a plaque of appreciation for supporting the tournament.

Lito Mendoza of Traders Insurance delivers a speech while wife Malou listens after receiving a plaque of appreciation from NMBF.

Runner-up White Smash Killers.

D'Bombers in full force during the awards ceremony.

The Net Fighters are all smiles as they pose for a group photo.

Eagles beat Giants to reach NFC title game

Donovan McNabb made all the big plays that Eli Manning did not, and the Philadelphia Eagles eliminated the Super Bowl champion New York Giants 23-11 Sunday to reach the NFC title game for the fifth time in eight seasons. 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Ogilvy wins Tour's opener by six shots

Paradise is no place to panic, although Geoff Ogilvy had reason Sunday at Kapalua. 25

Heo is Islanders' top netter

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REPORTER

CNMI's top junior tennis player Ji Hoon won three matches in the 2009 Post Margaret Court Cup to make it to the Round of 16 of the event played at the Albury Grasscourts in Albury, New South Wales, Australia.

After a scintillating 6-0, 6-0 triumph over Joshua Verity of Thurgoona, NSW in the first round and a 6-2, 6-0 win over Matt Thompson of Albany, Wodonga in the second round, the CNMI bet cruised to his third straight victory following a 6-2, 6-3 win against Albany's Robert Partington.

It was an upset victory for Heo, who was unseeded in the tournament, but defeated the 10th-ranked Partington.

In the Round of 16, Heo was paired against a much tougher foe in second seed Jack Cox of Berkley Vale, NSW.

The No. 2 pick Cox ended Heo's string of victories nailing a 6-2, 6-2 triumph to advance to the quarterfinals.

Cox went on to win the boys' 16-and-under title after pulling off a 1-6, 6-3, 6-2 upset over the top-seeded and fellow NSW player Ethan Scobie.

Heo competed in the Margaret Court Cup, along with the Cook Islands' Elias Tukaroa, Fiji's Tony O'Connell, Solomon Islands' Luke Paeni, and Samoa's Prince Matautia.

The CNMI netter was the top finisher for the ITF Pacific Oceania Touring Team in the tournament. Matautia was good only until Round of 32 losing to Albury's Lewis Ahern, 6-7, 4-6.

The three other ITF Pacific Oceania netters were eliminated in the earlier rounds.

Next up for Heo is the 2009 Victorian Junior Grasscourt Champ, which will be played at the Wodonga Lawn Tennis Club.

The Marianas High School student played in the same tournament last year and made it into the semis before losing to No. 2 seed Rory de Boer of Tasmania, 2-6, 2-6.

Before bowing to de Boer, Heo defeated three seeded foes.

The 15-year-old Heo reached the semifinals after a 6-4, 6-4 upset over the seventh seeded Sam Clow of Victoria. The CNMI netter also won over Dane McKinnon of Queensland, 7-5, 6-4, in the Last 16 and against No. 3 Michael McKee of New South Wales in the Round of 32.

After the tournaments in Australia, Heo and the rest of the ITF Pacific Touring Team will go to New Zealand to compete in Cantebury, Auckland, and Wellington.

The CNMI netter is hoping to earn points in the three tournaments in New Zealand to improve his rankings, which is currently No. 1,226.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Ji Hoon Heo is seen here hitting a low ball during a local tournament last year.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Zack Cruz wins the season finale roll-off for the 2008 Bing Prince of the Lanes tournament Sunday at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Zack Cruz crowned 2008 Bing Prince of the Lanes

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REPORTER

Zack Cruz won only once in the 12 monthly roll-offs last year, but came out the biggest winner of 2008 after ruling the season finale of the Bing Energy Drink Prince/ Princess of the Lanes Sunday at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Cruz claimed the 2008 Bing Prince of the Lanes title besting three other youth bowlers in the step-ladder finals.

The April Bing Prince of the Lanes was paired with two-time monthly winner J.D. Torres (January and September) in the semifinals with Cruz pulling off a 174-165 victory to advance to the title match.

In the other semis pairing, Leanne Yarobwemal, who never won a monthly plum in 2008, stunned nine-time winner Raphael Zapanta, 199-153.

But Yarobwemal ran out of magic in the championship

See ZACK on Page 26

NMBF elects officers for 2009

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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Badminton Federation has a new president in Shirley Kim, who was elected to the group's highest post Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Kim got the most votes from about 40 NMBF members who participated in the 2009 election last week and will be replacing outgoing president Marconi Calindas.

Others elected were Edwin Montoya, vice president; Reynaldo Gabriel, secretary; Malou Mendoza, treasurer; Cristy Villaflor, auditor; and Marco Antonio Aguda and Jojo Savellano, public relations officers.

See NMBF on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

New NMBF president Shirley Kim, second from left, is seen here posing with the federation's members during the Traders Insurance tournament last month at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Dolphins win early rematch with Rays

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REPORTER

A stronger Marianas High School won its early rematch with Saipan Southern High School, 63-55, in the opening game in the boys division of the 2008-2009 MISO Basketball League Friday night at the MHS Gymnasium.

The Dolphins dueled the Rays in last season's finals and were dethroned with Southern's much experienced crew and deeper bench eking out a 111-99 win in the finals.

This season, MHS and Southern seemed headed for a change of fortunes, as far as their rosters are concerned.

The Dolphins have the returning trio of Jericho Cruz, Marvin Rabauliman, and Joseph Ada boosting their roster. The three players were the top scorers for MHS last season, but after the trio, the Dolphins had only two to three guys capable of contributing to the team's cause last year

This season, coaches Nick Gross and Mark McDonald have a lot of players on the bench to turn to if things did not work out well with his Top 3 gunners.

MHS will have the returning Zack Tudela, who missed last season's MISO caging,

See DOLPHINS on Page 26